



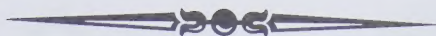
AXE MAKERS of NORTH AMERICA

A Collection of Axe History & Manufacturers



by Allan Klenman

Second Edition Revised by Larry McPhail



AXE MAKERS of NORTH AMERICA

by

ALLAN KIENMAN

Victoria, B.C. Canada

Second Edition Revised by Larry McPhail

Blaine, Washington, U.S.A.

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ISBN 0-9690755-4-5

First Printing, 1990
Second Printing, 2006

Second Edition Editor:

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2855 H St. Rd
Blaine, WA 98230



When "Axe Makers of North America" was first published, it filled a void in the search for properly researched information and background for the long ignored group of collectors who had started to study and preserve that all important tool, the axe. Almost "overnight," the factories and blacksmiths who had supplied the tool which was basic to the clearing of the vast forests of America were forced out of the business by the introduction of the chain saw and power equipment. These students and researchers turned to the main source of properly indexed history, "Axe-Makers." Sadly this book was quickly picked off the market.

Now, the original author, Allan Klenman, with the assistance of America's foremost collector, Larry McPhail, have collaborated to bring you the authoritative book you have been waiting for, a completely revised and enlarged publication with more than 30 new stories of manufacturers and lots of updated information not covered in the original. Larry McPhail is to be congratulated and thanked by that world-wide group who see the axe as man's most important forest tool, now not manufactured in America but worthy of remembrance.



FORWARD

Allan Klenman comes from pioneering stock. In 1888 his family established the first permanent farm colony in the Northwest Territory; the community founded was Wapella, Saskatchewan.

The family later moved to British Columbia where Allan grew up and developed a love for the trees and the forest, learning to chop and stack wood for the household furnace and range. From these early experiences grew an interest and respect for tools and the craftsmen that produced them; an interest he has maintained throughout his careers in the Royal Canadian Air Force, as a broadcaster, a businessman, historian and collector.

North America's pioneering dependence on the axe soon became Allan Klenman's major concern. For as technology advanced - as the chainsaw and mechanical shear gained greater acceptance in the forest industry - the felling axe was relegated to the status of a recreational tool. As sales plummeted and factories closed, Klenman realized that an important part of North American industrial history was being lost. This fueled his interest and firmed his resolve to research the axe makers and their companies and record their histories the early America of another age.

"Axe Makers of North America" is a unique contribution to the industrial history of Canada and the United States of America. It gives an account of the major manufacturers and presents material to assist the historian and collector in the identification of artifacts. It is an informative record and above all, a pleasant reading experience.

T.G. Honer, PhD, RPF
Victoria, British Columbia

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank the following individuals who have assisted, or have themselves undertaken the research of specific axe makers over many previous years. Undoubtedly there are some whose contribution to the study of axes should be recognized, and to those I apologize for their omission.

Nelson Banfield	John Hawk	Jacob Novinger
Kendall H. Bassett	Charles A. Heavrin	James Packham
Susan Bennett	Steve Hill	Ritchie Parkin
Mark Bertels	John Holmes	David Perch (Dec.)
Jim Blower	Dr. T.G. Honer	Arden Phair
Dennis R. Bohrer	Ron Honeyman	Bill Racine
Gäbriel Bränby	Bill Hooper	H.R. Radomski (Dec.)
Ken Brauner	Peter Hooper	Frances Roback
Ralph E. Brooks	William Hooper	Verne G. Roberts
Herb J. Bruch (Dec.)	Dr. Donald Jastad	George Robertson (Dec.)
Larry Brundage (Dec.)	Allan Jenvey	Elliot Sayward
Greg Burkett	Gary Karr	Vic Sharp
Doug M. Campbell	Daniel Kremendahl	R. Philip Smart
Steve Currell	Bob Ladd	John F. Southcott
Garnet R. Darling	Claude LeBlanc	Greg Strayer
Martin J. Donnelly	Harmon Lewis	Stuart Turner
Sven Ericson	Norman Link (Dec.)	Howard A. Vaughan
Jack Evans	Russ Marsh	John Waddell
Bryon Foster	Jim Mau	Eric Warner
Eugene Fox	Jerry T. McCartney	Paul Wellborn
John French	Michael McCarty	Stephen W. White
Jim Gamble	Terry A. McNealy	Harry A. Wickes (Dec.)
Oscar Garant (Dec.)	Larry McPhail	George E. Woodard
Jerry Grismer	A.E. Mibus	Robin Wyllie
Chris J.P. Hanna	Ron V. Mossing	Donald Yeaton
Howard Hardy	Peter Myers	Harold E. York (Dec.)
David Hauenstein III	John Nolte	

The author would also like to give special acknowledgment to the following: Barry Abel, of "Tool Ads," for kindly publishing many of the individual stories which now appear here - and have subsequently been "improved" with valuable information from readers.

Terry Honer, for his companionship during many, many trips to the library to do monotonous research, and for always keeping a look out for new axes or labels during his travels across the country.

Gord Currie, who spent the laborious hours involved with editing, designing and finally seeing this book through to publication (first edition).

PREFACE



The hobby of axe collecting is not new. However it is growing in popularity now that the availability of "good" axes is growing scarce.

During the "axe age" in America (arbitrarily 1850-1960) axes were a commodity of great importance. Today, only about five manufacturers remain in the U.S. and none in Canada.

While the axe is not uniquely North American, its specific use in this land, along with the men who manufactured them, gave them a character all of their own. To quote one writer of a century ago:

"Among edge tools a front place must be given to the axe. There are few countries where the axe has been so much employed or more severely tested than in the United States. The clearing of the forests from so wide an area must have shown to the settlers very correctly not only what was required in the quality of the axe, but what was the best form in which it should be made.

"The American axe has for many years displaced the axes imported from Britain, and these axes are now used exclusively throughout the United States, and in other countries, including Canada, where their excellence has stimulated several Canadian firms to manufacture for themselves axes of a similar character. American axes are now im-

ported into this country, and are found, for the purpose of clearing land, more efficient than the tools made in the old shape at home. The great proportion of the American axes are manufactured by welding in the steel into the axe after the eye has been partially formed. This mode requires very careful attention and skill, to prevent the steel from being injured in its quality; but the best American axe is made out of a solid piece of cast steel, and the eye is punched out of the solid. These axes are superior, as the steel is not by this plan injured in welding; but there is no difference in the shape of the tool.

"In felling trees the American axe is more easily worked; its shape enables it to be more easily drawn out after the blow is given, and the body of the axe, being much firmer, is not liable to twist in working. American axes made by welding in the steel had their cutting quality severely tested by striking a steel block several times without turning the edge. The demand for this class of axes is enormous, and the number of makers consequently very large, so that we are not surprised to find many exhibitors of the same style of tool with little difference in the external appearance. In most cases the exhibits (which were taken from stock) were polished in a superior manner, and some of them fitted with handles, so that an opportunity was afforded of putting their quality to the test above."

(From the report of the U.S. Centennial International Exhibition, 1876.)

Searching for the old labels and stampings at flea markets, farm sales, etc. is great sport and collectors are eagerly trying to preserve the special history of axes, with their colorful labels, deep stampings and acid embossed logos.

DESERONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

The study and collection of axes is a rewarding hobby because it involves mans oldest and most important tool- until the 1950's. One sideline axe collecting has led me to, is the study of those great individuals - the lumberjacks and loggers - who earned their living by swinging the axe eight to twelve hours a day in the forests. These men attacked 300-foot giants, 14 feet at the base, and felled them within inches of the planned fall site.

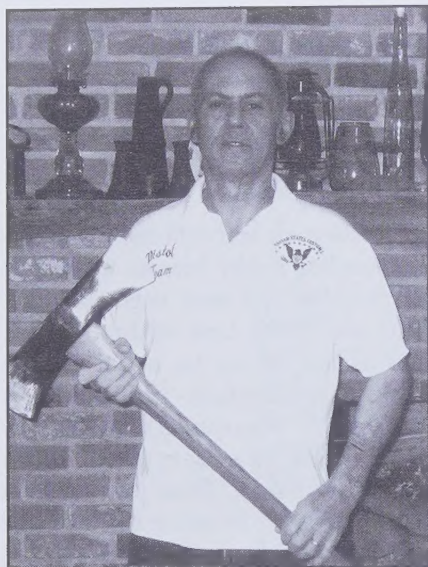
They loved and respected their axes. Old "Scotty" Peterson, who was a faller for 27 years, literally slept with his axe and never went to church meetings without it.

My aim is to learn and preserve the history of axes in America. This includes the makers - individuals, small factories, and the huge conglomerates. What axes were made by what people? What and why did these patterns assume the names by which they are known?

The part that I find most intriguing is the wonderful and colorful names assigned these axes to assist in their sale to the public. Most of this detail is almost lost. The formal repositories of our history have practically nothing on file. Most of my research has been in the form of collection and examination, use of old catalogues (very scarce) and from interviewing quite a number of makers and retailers, now fast disappearing.

Allan Klenman - Victoria. B.C.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



My great grandfather came from Tennessee by covered wagon in 1896 to the Pacific Northwest. His son, my grandfather, started working in the woods at the age of 10 greasing the skids for the logs. He worked his way up in the woods until he was a faller standing on the springboards and pulling the falling saw. He worked as a faller and farmer until WWII. He never used a chainsaw.

My father started out after high school in the logging business for about 10 years until he moved on to bulldozers and large Cat loaders.

Myself, I never was a logger. I spent all my working years with the U.S. Border Patrol and U.S. Customs as an inspector of people and cargo. I had this interest in logging that was passed down to me by my family, so about 20 years ago I started collecting axes and logging tools.

I was raised on a farm, so when I went to work for the government, my wife, Marsha, and I bought a farm and raised our boys on it. They cut and sold firewood for years to earn spending money.

My grandfather had a wood stove and wood furnace when I was a little boy. I bought a wood furnace for my large farm house and I have heated

it that way for nearly 30 years. It only costs about \$35 per year to heat. Sure different from oil at \$1000 per month. I go out to my back wood lot each winter and cut about 10 to 12 cords of wood which I season and burn three years later. I have been splitting wood now for over 50 years.

I have a real love for the right kind of splitting axe. Surprisingly, the axe I use the most is a worn out old Kelly double bit. It weighs 3 lbs. and I can swing it all day without getting tired. Being worn out, it has a fast taper which makes splitting the wood easy and being a double bit, it is balanced. When I'm out falling the trees I have a 5 lb. single bit because it is great for driving wedges.

I have a real true love for the axes in my collection and at one time I had 3000 axes thanks to Allan Klenman. I had to slim the collection down. 3000 was just too many.

Axes, like Winchester Rifles of the 1800's and Corvette Cars of the mid-1900's have changed from working tools, becoming antique collector's items and works of art.

For years I had used Allan Klenman's book as my bible when researching axes and collecting them. I had realized the importance of this book for many people, like myself, who need information to help piece together the history of their axe collections. Late in 2005 I drove over to Allan's house in Victoria, British Columbia with a good friend and axe collector, Mark Bertels from Alaska. I encouraged Allan to do a reprint of his original book but, he said "No, I'm too old for that job." He told me I could do it if I felt like it. I said I did feel like it and he gave me 15 more years of research he had been working on to add to the book.

I took all of the new research to Bellingham, Washington to an out-

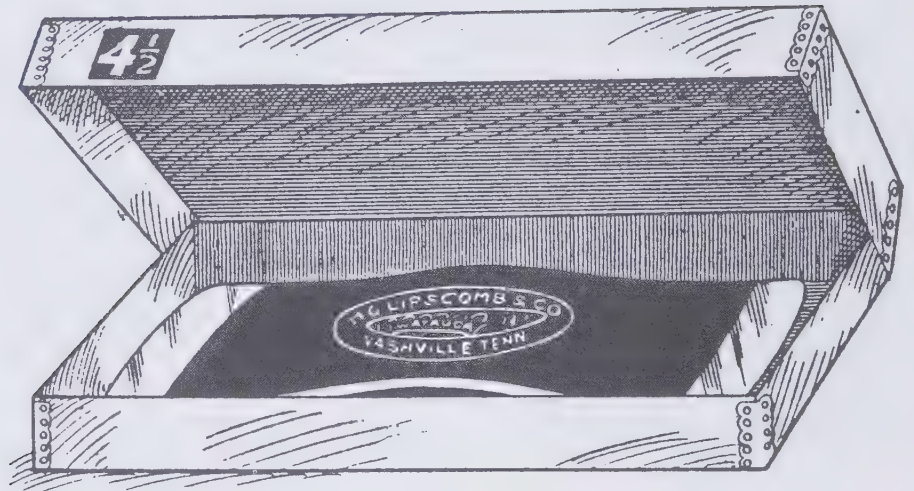
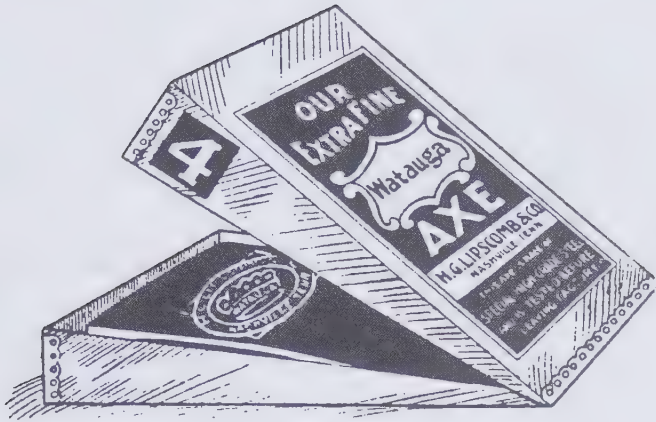
standing office called Print and Copy Factory. They had a hard working staff and jumped right on the project. A lady named Krystal headed up the project and her attention to detail is reflected in the quality of the book before you. Allan Klenman had some excellent photos of his axe collection and the staff there did a fine job of making a new cover for the second edition of this book by using pictures of his Sager Chemical axe. All the work that went into this book is from Allan's years of research and by Print and Copy Factory's assembly. My hats off to them for a fine product.

This journey of traveling down the road publishing a book is entirely new to me. It has been quite a learning experience and it is very rewarding.

My most exciting moment was digging through the archives at the University of Washington and discovering a invoice for some Puget Sound falling axes. Years ago Dennis Bohrer had gone to the University and had found the invoice but we could no longer find his copy. Dennis and I went there and the first box I looked in, there it was. *4 dozen axes P.S. pattern axes sold by Hinds, Stone & Co. to the Washington Mill Company on April 17, 1868.* These axes were made by the Douglas Axe Co. of Massachusetts for Hinds, Stone & Co. of Seattle. I have seen reference to this receipt but until now I don't think a copy has ever been printed. Also most interesting was a statement on the invoice that basically said that Douglas Axe had invented the Puget Sound pattern axe with the help of the axemen in the Puget Sound area.

This is only one small part of the research that went into this book and it gives me a real appreciation of all the years of hard work that Allan Klenman put into making this book what it is today.

Larry McPhail - Blaine, Washington



CHAPTER 1

THE MANUFACTURE OF AXES

Axe Manufacturing

Throughout modern history there were three distinct phases of manufacturing axes. For centuries axes were made of iron, with steel bits to make them serviceable in chopping wood.

About 150 years ago, "mild steel" began to be more readily available and this led to a far better product.

There were two distinct methods of adding the high carbon steel bits:

- (1) inserted steel bit
- (2) overcoat type steel bit

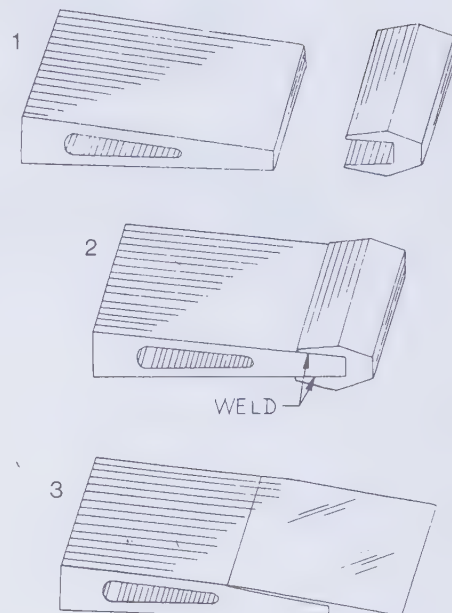
The latter was finally accepted as the standard method. Today all axes are made of steel, starting with "cast steel" and finally leading to many and various formulas of steel, developed or selected by each axe maker to suit the special function of each type of axe.

In spite of the ready availability of fine steels and modern manufacturing methods, the canny and hardworking axemen of yesteryear produced axes that are hard to better by any method or material used today certainly they were more "beautiful" and appealing to the eye.

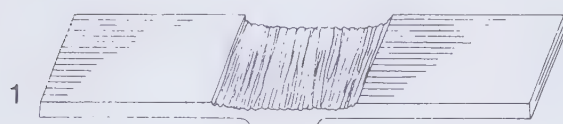
Axe making was an extremely competitive endeavor. The axe companies strove hard to supply the best product possible and equalled these efforts in promoting their product. One company boasted of 400 patterns and sizes in different grades of quality.

The man in the woods could not be deceived. When he found an axe properly made with good steel, correctly tempered, well balanced and properly hung on seasoned, second-growth clear hickory, this line of axes was assured financial success. When the woodsman was satisfied with his bread-winning tool, he seldom let it out of his sight.

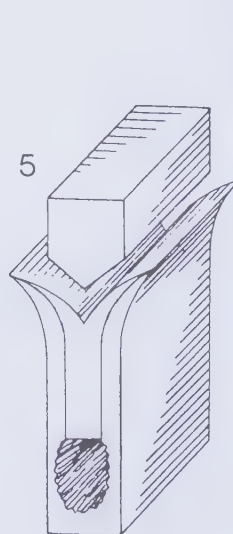
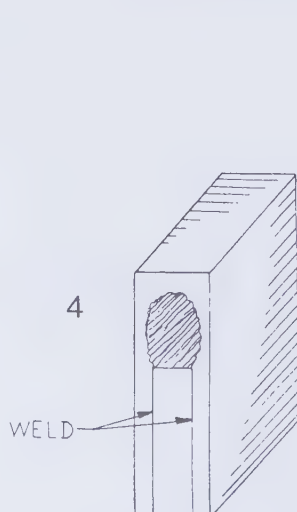
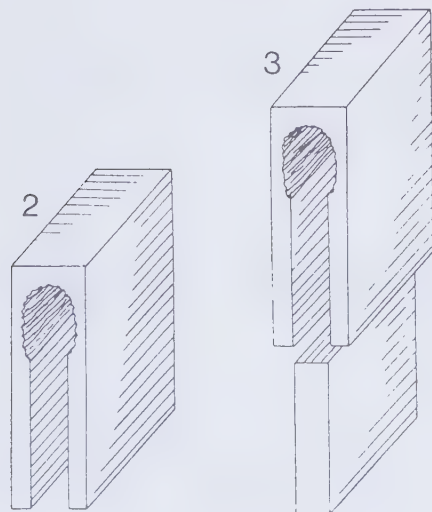
The men who made axes knew this. They spent their entire lives at their trade, some at the forge, some at the hammer, some at grinding and polishing and a very few at the tricky and most important process, the hardening and tempering. One of these men spent 72 years at his trade, from childhood to old age, for Welland Vale Co. of St. Catharines, Ontario.



Steps in the twentieth-century "overcoat" method of making a polled utility axe.



Steps in the manufacture of a utility axe in the mid-1800's.





Axe Patterns

In the days before universal travel and modern highways, life was more stable. People may have lived 3, 4 or 5 generations in the same community.

In those times, certain axes would become popular in an area: DAYTON, MICHIGAN, JERSEY, BALTIMORE, etc. To bring order to the almost 400 different patterns being manufactured in the U.S.A., around 1900 the makers, through their association, agreed to establish a "Standard Chart of Axe Patterns." The main reason this was done was to simplify identification, eliminate a number of unnecessary types, and thus save manufacturing, stocking and promotion costs.

However, there is still a lot of confusion in properly attributing double bit axes. Most makers stick with the "Standard Chart" shown, even though less than half are now available.

The famous "Western Falling" or "Puget Sound Falling Axe" is easily recognized on the West Coast. However, most people in the rest of the country have never seen one. They were made from 3 1/2 to 5 1/2 lbs. in weight and were 13" to 15" in length.



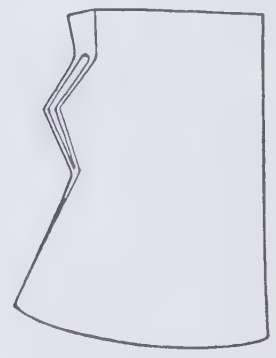
YANKEE



KENTUCKY OR SOUTHERN KENTUCKY



WEDGE



JERSEY OR BALTIMORE JERSEY



DAYTON



DELAWARE OR WIDE BIT DAYTON



CONNECTICUT



REGULAR WISCONSIN



HALF WEDGE



CEDAR



NEW ENGLAND



RAFTING



MICHIGAN



MAINE



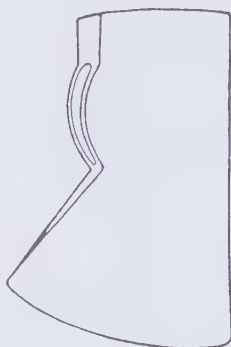
BALTIMORE KENTUCKY



WESTERN CROWN



HOOSIER OR ZEEK



ROCKAWAY



CROWN OR MICHIGAN



WEDGE



REVERSIBLE OR HALF PEELING



WISCONSIN



PEELING



WESTERN OR PENNSYLVANIA



YOUNG'S FALLING



SWAMPING



PUGET SOUND FALLING



NARROW MICHIGAN



HUMBOLDT



Leonard Frank photo

The importance of the axe to the forest industry is obvious - it enabled that industry to exist. As that industry developed, so did the type of axes that were used, as well as the technique by which they were employed in their task. The following stories illustrate this.

CHAPTER 2

THE AXE AND THE LUMBER INDUSTRY

Woodsmen & Axes

How a logger or lumberjack selected and used an axe was similar to him having an accent - it was a unique trait and could be a "giveaway" as to where he came from. The following article appeared in "Gaskell's Improved Lumber and Log Book, 1905" and was a reprint from the trade journal *Northwestern Lumberman*:

"The style of axes differ with nationalities. A Canadian chopper prefers a broad square blade, with the weight more in the blade than elsewhere, the handles being short and thick. A down-east logger, one from Maine, selects a long, narrow head, the blade in crescent shape, the heaviest part in the top of the head above the eye. New York cutters select a broad, crescent-shaped blade, the whole head rather short, and the weight balanced evenly above and below the eye, that is, where the handle goes through. A West backwoodsman selects a blade, the corners only rounded off, and the eye holding the weight of the axe. The American chopper, as a rule, selects a long, straight handle. The difference in handling is, that a down-easter takes hold with both hands at the extreme end, and throws his blows easily and gracefully, with a long sweep, over his shoulder. A Canuck chops from directly over his head, with the right hand well down on the handle to serve in jerking the blade out of the stick. A Westerner catches hold at the end of his handle, the hands about three inches apart, and delivers his blows rather directly from over the left shoulder."

In fact, an expert in the woods can tell the nationality or State a man has been reared in by seeing him hit one blow with an axe. It is, however, an interesting fact to know that a Yankee chopper, with his favorite axe and swinging cut, can, bodily strength being equal, do a fifth more work in the same time than any other cutter, and be far less fatigued. This, in a very large degree, will account for the great percentage of Maine men who will be found each year in the woods."



Illustration by David Perch,
Ottawa axe collector. Redrawn
from Walters' 1962 catalogue.



The Puget Sound / Western Falling Axe

Double bit axes are known from the early Bronze Age. Specimens found in many parts of the world were perfectly made and closely resembled some of the patterns common in America from the 1850's.

When did the Western (or Puget Sound) Falling Axe come into use? These long-bitted axes were favored by fallers because of the nature of the trees they were cutting. In the coastal forests, firs, cedars and spruce were immense - 8 to 14 feet in diameter. An additional problem - the great spread of the butt - made chopping very difficult. To overcome this, "springboards" were used. A narrow 6-inch to 10-inch wide plank was inserted into a notch cut into the tree to form an elevated platform to work from.

Balancing on this narrow ledge and aiming at the inside of the falling cut was almost impossible with a single bit or short double bit axe. Someone got the idea of using longer blades, allowing more accuracy and reach, and this idea mushroomed until it was the standard falling tool up to the end of axe-falling.

The author had seen some references claim this pattern, long and thin, 13 to 15 inches from bit-to-bit and 2 to 2-1/2" wide at the eye, first came into use in the late 1880's. These were guesses!

Some axes recently examined were made by Gilbert White who operated his axe factory in Honesdale, Pennsylvania. He had taken over the company from his father Ephraim White who had inherited the business from the founder, Ezekiel White, who started the company in 1820.

The axes, about eight specimens, were found in Oregon and Washington. They are beautifully 100% hand-hammered and welded and appear to be of the highest quality "blue steel." The size seems to be standard at about 15" and weighing between 4-1/2 to 5 pounds.

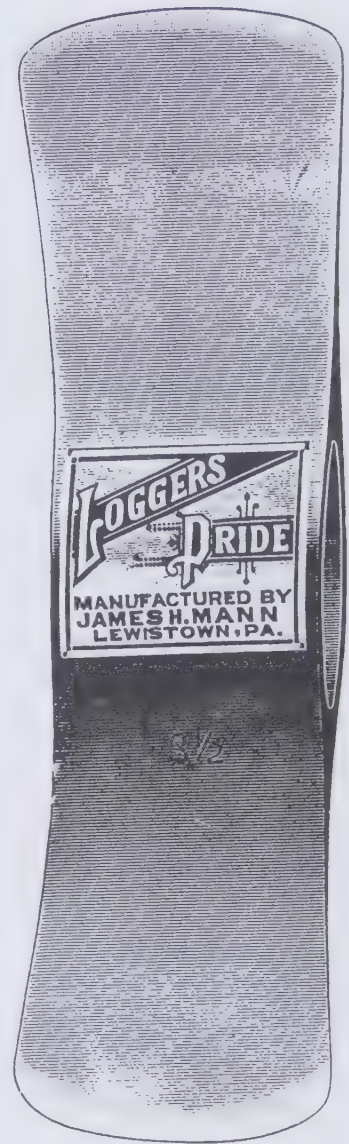
They were stamped:

Stub & Twist
G. White Axe Co.
Honesdale, PA
Warranted

Still other evidence, an invoice uncovered in the University of Washington Collection, points to a slightly earlier date, although no specimens are known to exist. This invoice is from the Hinds, Stone & Co. of Seattle, Washington Territory, who state on their letterhead, dated April 17, 1868, that "This axe is a new pattern, one of our own getting up." The invoice is made out to Washington Mill Co. and shows "4 doz. P.S. (Puget Sound) pattern axes supplied at \$16.50 the doz. Total \$66.00, payable in US. Gold Coin at par, or its equivalent."

The makers are said to be the Douglas Axe Co. of East Douglas, Massachusetts. Hinds, Stone & Co. had a San Francisco branch run by S.B. Hinds and the Seattle store was managed by C.P. Stone and C.N. Burnett.

So we know the Puget Sound Falling Axe was at least "known" in 1868. With tooling and allowing slow mail and freight of the day, it could have been introduced shortly after the Civil War ended in 1865.



Western Falling Pattern
(ca. 1912)

The Puget Sound / Western Falling Axe

First let me begin by saying that everything on this page has been compiled by me, Larry McPhail, so if there are any inaccuracies, I am responsible.

Some 20 years ago Dennis Bohrer had researched the archives at the University of Washington and found records from the Washington Mill Company of Seabeck. Seabeck is a small community on the Hood Canal west of Seattle and Bremerton. Around 1886 the mill burned down but the company store and all the records were not burned in the fire. Someone was good enough to donate all of these company records to the University archives. When a person looks at these you get a real picture of what went through the store and what life was like in the Puget Sound during the period around the Civil war. I looked at records from the 1850's to the 1880's. Pickles, apples, bolts of cloth, kegs of nails, meat, boots, axes, 64 inch saw blade and of course lumber sold and the ships coming and going. The records list all the mill workers and their pay. All of these records are found under, "Washington Mill Company accession # 1005." There are 15 boxes but I found this in box #1.

Many axe collectors have wondered when the first Puget Sound axe was invented. So far there has been no proof. But now with this record from Washington Mill Company we have a better idea. The date is April 17, 1868. The box in the upper left corner states, "This axe is a new pattern, one of our own getting up, with the aid of experienced axemen." That statement was from the Douglas Axe Company of East Douglas, Massachusetts. If the falling axe went through the same developing process as the undercutter axe did, one could guess that some logger in the woods came up with a better idea for the axe and with the help of the company blacksmith made a few experimental models until they came up with a pattern that suited the logger.

This new pattern would have been shipped to the Douglas Axe Company because no doubt Washington Mill had

been buying other axes from the Douglas Company for years because they had been in business since the early 1800's. Considering how long it takes ships to go from the East coast to the West coast it is not unreasonable to suggest that the Puget Sound axe pattern was developed some time during the Civil war period (1861-1865). Possibly because of shipping problems and steel supplies it is not unreasonable to think that the axe was not put into full production until after the war.

Allan Klenman sent me a note concerning sale of tools in Puget Sound during this period. He said axe and forest equipment was obtainable through

the large and complete hardware and tool centers established by the San Francisco wholesalers. Schwabachers, Seattle Hardware and Hinds, Stone & Co. carried all the brands of axes because there were no other company retail shops until the 1890's. By the 1890's Seattle was the center of all forestry sales for the whole of Washington and even northern Oregon.

For several years people have argued, is there a Puget Sound falling axe bigger than 4-1/2 lbs? To help set the record straight, I have in my collection a 1928 Sager Chemical axe that weighs 6 lbs. and is stamped "6" and is 14-5/8 inches long.

Manufacturers of the Puget Sound Axe (Western Falling)

I have taken names from four of the larger axe collections on the West coast plus information out of old hardware catalogs to arrive with this list of names of axes made in the Puget Sound axe pattern. I'm sure there are more names which we will see surface in the future.

MANUFACTURERS & Brands:

A.A. & T CO.; Bloods Champion

BRADES; Giraffe & Cockatoo

CARCO CONWHIT

CLYDE EQUIP. COMPANY,
Oregon; CECO

COLLINS; Collins Legitimus
& Old Timer

DOUGLAS HUNT BROS.

EVANSVILLE

FOREST KING

FRED BARNETT, San Francisco

GBA GRANSFORS

GREY GORGE

HULTS BRUK

KELLY; Champion, Hand Forged, Kelly
Axe & Tool Co., Wood Slasher, Best
Axe Made, Flint Edge, Hand Made,
Black Raven, True Temper, Kelly Works,
Vulcan, Black Prince & Welland Vale

MARSHALL-WELLS; MW Co.
Hand Made, Zenith, MWH Co. Hand
Made

MAC & MAC; Gorilla

JAMES H. MANN; J. H. Mann,
Logger Pride

MANN; Knot Klipper & True American

MATCHLESS

MONARCH AXE

PLUMB; Dreadnaught, B&B Broderick
& Bascom Loggers' Supply Co., Plumb,
Anchor Brand & Plumb Victory

SCHWABACHER HARDWARE;
Colonial

SEATTLE HARDWARE; Occident
Saber Temper

SEARS; Fulton

SMARTS; 444

STEWART

SVERGE; Eagle Viking

TITAN

VAUGHAN; Sub-Zero & Super Steel

WARREN; Sager, Warren Axe & Tool
and Sager Chemical

WALTERS; Walters, Fleck Bros, Black
Diamond

WARDS; Master Quality, Lakeside

WETTERLING; Saw

WHITE; White Champion

WINCHESTER

S. B. HINDS,
SAN FRANCISCO.

PUGET SOUND

PATTERN AXES,

MADE BY THE

Douglas Ax Manufacturing Co

EXPRESSLY FOR

HINDS, STONE & CO.

SEATTLE, W. T.

This Ax is a new pattern, one of our own getting up, with the aid of experienced axmen, and we are now prepared to furnish them at

WHOLESALE & RETAIL.

WADE & CO., PRINTERS, SAN FRANCISCO.

PAYABLE IN UNITED STATES GOLD COIN AT PAR, OR ITS EQUIVALENT.

Seattle, W. T. April 17 1868
M. Marshall Blinn

Bought of **HINDS, STONE & CO.**

— DEALERS IN —

GROCERIES, BOOTS, SHOES, DRY GOODS, ETC.

Terms Cash.

DOORS, WINDOWS AND CORDAGE.

C. P. STONE,
C. H. BURNETT, } SEA

OUR

CLOTHING DEPARTMENT

Always contains a large and selected stock of ready-made

CLOTHING

HATS, CAPS,

AND

Gents' Furnishing Goods

Also, a great variety of

OREGON CLOTH

which will be made up order, on the shortest notice, by a first class Tailor.

4 Doz P.S. Pattern Axes 1868 660

J. P. KELDER, Seattle W. T.

Teahale, April 29 1868

Miss Washington Mill Co.

Bought of **PUGET MILL COMPANY,**

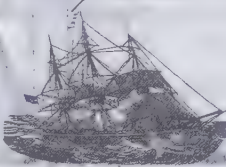
MANUFACTURERS OF

All kinds of ROUGH AND DRESSED LUMBER,

CARGOES, SPARS, PILES AND TIMBER, FURNISHED at short notice

ALSO, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN

GROCERIES, PROVISIONS, AND DRY GOODS.



4 Apr 4 axes 75- 3.00

These are invoices from the records of the Washington Mill Company of Seabeck, Washington Territory. They show the sale of the "new" Puget Sound axe pattern made by Douglas Axe and sold by Hinds, Stone & Co. of Seattle, Washington in 1868.

Printed with permission of the University of Washington,
(Nicole L. Bouche,
Pacific Northwest Curator).

Port Townsend December 14 1868

M. Marshall Blinn, Washington Mill Co.

To **D. C. H. Rothschild Jr.**

Interest at the rate of 1½ per Cent will be positively charged on Bills after.....days.

Date of Purchase.

Due.

1868		To Merchandise as per Bill rendered	
Dec	3	To Cash Presumpt	18
		1 White Mission Wood (M. Blinn)	6 87
		1 Straw Mattress	2 75
		To order of Capt. A. P. Blinn Comdr. Ship Dublin, from John Green on Washington Mill Co	9 62
			26 48
			\$ 36 10

STEAD & SHEFFIELD,
ARE PRACTICAL
SAW MAKERS,
AND MANUFACTURERS OF
SAWS AND FILES,
From the best Manufacturers
SPEAR & JACKSON'S
REGISTERED
CIRCULAR SAWS AND FILES
CONSTANTLY ON HAND
Saws Retooled, Hammers, Etc.

San Francisco, Nov 21 1857

Messrs J. A. Williams & Co.

Bought of **STEAD & SHEFFIELD,**

N. E. CORNER OF

BATTERY AND JACKSON STREETS.



In One 6 1/2 inch Circular saw (Spear & Jack) \$ 27 50 00
" one 58 in. do 180 00 00
" 1 doz 10 in. Mill Files Single Cut 12 00 00
" 1 doz 14 in. do. " 2nd Cut 10 00 00
" 1 doz 10 in. do. " 2nd " 5 00 00
" 3 doz Taper Saw Files Cal 475. 5 25 48 1/2

The Cable Axe

We know the falling axe, the chopping axe, the ice axe and even the turf axe. But known mainly in West Coast logging circles is the "cable axe."

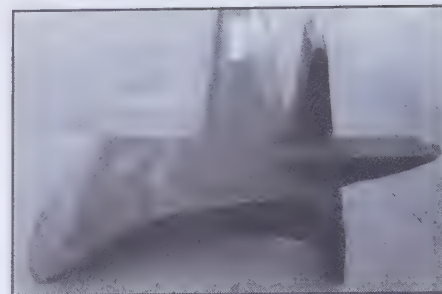
The logging "shows" of the West Coast featured spar trees, blocks, tackle and miles of cable. It was required to cut these cables on short notice and in awkward locations.

A make-shift practice which grew up and became widespread was to stick an old double bit axe into a log and lay

the cable to be cut across the exposed bit and smack it with a machinists hammer or small sledge, until cut through.

Many specimens have been found with one bit almost normal and the other battered in the tell-tale fashion, with round or half-round indentations, from the action of cutting through the steel strands.

However, some enterprising blacksmith produced an axe especially for this purpose. He welded a large steel



handle to the axe, designed the blade to bite into the log or block and fashioned special "feet" to steady the cable axe.

Rockaway - The New Jersey Axe

I would say that the least known axe pattern in America is the Rockaway. The one factory that specialized in this pattern was the William McKinnon Axe Factory of Rockaway, Morris County, New Jersey. No doubt William McKinnon (1816-1873), who opened his blacksmith shop in 1845, copied the pattern, or parts of it, from other axes he had seen. It was not until many years after he had introduced the Rockaway that the other large makers were forced by the demand to also make this "strange" pattern, which was always labeled, the Rockaway, after the McKinnon Axe of Rockaway, NJ. Producing 500 axes per year from the earliest times, they were all hand made except for some polishing.

There were three main differences in this axe, which quickly built up the acceptance. It resembled a Hudson Bay pattern with one important difference - a curved "inside" blade edge. The blade curved from the inside blade end to the bottom of the eye.

The cutting blade, too, had a curve from the bottom to the inside edge. This was claimed to allow the chopper or woodman to take a wider cut when felling.

The third change was a notably heavier and wider poll. As stated, it gave the chopper a larger cutting edge, and

those who used it could produce more work, and they became true supporters of the Rockaway pattern.

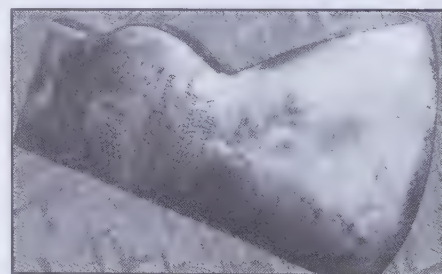
During the 80 years the company prospered, there were changes in ownership. When William, the founder, died in 1873, his two youngest sons became the operators. They changed the name of the business to McKinnon Brothers Axe Factory. Over the next 10 years there was an ever-increasing business for the McKinnon Brothers' special axe. But in 1883, Walter, the elder of the brothers, turned the company over to his brother William ("the second," as he was known). William was a more aggressive businessman.

The business continued to enlarge. In addition to the Rockaway, which by now had made the company famous, it offered a wide range of axes. And by 1890 it is reported that the company produced six dozen tools.

Following an accident in the plant, William died in 1905, and his son, Samuel D. McKinnon, became the owner. He incorporated under the name, "The McKinnon Rockaway Axe Co., Inc." in 1907. By this time, 20 full-time axe makers were employed.

Unfortunately, a major fire in the mid 1920's was the first step leading to the company's closure. A longtime em-

ployee, James H. Blanchard, took over what was left from the shareholders. But try as he did, the old magic was gone. It was rumored the new owners did not know the secrets of tempering a good axe! The company voluntarily closed prior to 1930.





Undercutter / Chain Saw Axe

One of the most interesting and one of the “newer” axe patterns is the “Chain Saw Axe” or “Undercutter.” It is relatively new because its introduction dates only from the start of the chain saw era, while the axe in all its forms is known from time immemorial. Even double bitted axes, in modern form, are known from ca. 1500 B.C.

The undercutter is also the least known pattern in the world. Most people in America have never seen one! It evolved for west coast use specifically because the combination of the giant trees and the early use of chain saws created a problem.

The undercut would bind as a result of the insufficiency of the early chains, and this axe, with the sharp chisel edge was ideal for removing the binding portion.

The axe was made in weights 3-3/4 to 5-1/2 lbs., and measured from 13” to 14” from blade to chisel edge.

There are a number of apocryphal stories claiming the original idea for this tool but all we can do for now is supply a list of companies first offering it in their catalogues.



The axe on the left is a Walter’s undercutter / chainsaw axe. The second axe is a 1947 Sager Chemical. The third axe has no name, but is of the older style with the narrow pick. The axe on the right with the white label is a rare Walters axe. In 1938 Walters was the first company asked to make 50 experimental undercutter axes, they did so and shipped them to Vancouver Island. This is one of those original 50 undercutter axes made.

These are a part of Larry McPhail’s collection.

YEAR	RETAIL SUPPLIER	LOCATION	MANUFACTURER	LOCATION
1944	MAC & MAC	VANCOUVER, B.C.	BURGESS TOOL CO.	AYLMER, QUE.
1946	KLOEPFER HDWE. CO.	VANCOUVER, B.C.	WALTERS AXE CO.	HULL, QUE.
1946	A.W. DAVIS HDWE.	PORTLAND, OR	WARREN AXE & TOOL	WARREN, PA
1946	MAC & MAC	VANCOUVER, B.C.	WALTERS AXE CO.	HULL, QUE.
1948	DUNHAM, CARRIGANHAYDEN	SAN FRANCISCO, CA	TRUE TEMPER	CHARLESTON, WV
1950	FLECK BROS. LTD.	VANCOUVER, B.C.	WALTERS AXE CO.	HULL, QUE.
1952	SEATTLE HARDWARE CO.	SEATTLE, WA	TRUE TEMPER	CHARLESTON, WV
1954	SCHWABACHER CO.	SEATTLE, WA	WARREN AXE & TOOL	WARREN, PA

Additional names on undercutter axes we have found recently: True Temper Flint Edge Kelly Works, Sager Chemical Axe & Collins Legitimus.



Not to be confused with the Undercutter axe, this Tommy axe comes to a point not a flat pick. Tommy axes were used for handling and sorting pulp wood. This axe is embossed “OCCIDENT Seattle Hdwe Co. Sabre Temper.” It weighs four lbs. and is 16-1/4” long. From John Nolte’s collection.

Undercutter / Chain Saw Axe

The guess has always pointed to Vancouver Island as being the centre of the invention and introduction of the "chainsaw" axe. Recently we have collected supporting evidence to show that a faller names George Burns was the inventor, while he was testing the use of chain saws for Bloedel, Stewart & Welch at their Franklin River Division on the west coast of Vancouver Island around 1938.

Quoted here is an excerpt from an address given to the B.C. Truck Loggers Association in February of 1949 by the late J.A. Addison, a forest company executive for many years:

"...of others, there was George Burns who first came up with the idea of the power saw axe, single-bitted with the flat, chisel-edge pick on the off side, and which is now known as the 'undercutter axe.' At the beginning of the power saw's use it was the custom to saw the bottom of the undercut in and then chop the rest out by hand, by angle, which was found of sawing two, three, or four horizontal cuts, depending on the size of the tree end, then wedging the blocks out...

"To do this job of getting the blocks out, George Burns had the idea of what is the presently the 'power saw axe,' or 'chainsaw axe,' or 'undercutter.' The two or three in existence were made at Bloedel's Franklin River operation by the camp blacksmith, who used standard double-bitted falling axes. The pattern was turned over to the Walters Axe Company of Hull, Quebec, who fashioned the first power saw axes ever made anywhere. Fortunately, they never thought to patent the new axe."

I have also confirmed these facts with Mr. Jack Bell of Qualicum, retired from the position of general manager of the Franklin River Division, whose term there covered the period referred to. Faller Olaf Fedje of Nanaimo also corroborated these facts. One further reference exists in *Working In the Woods* by Ken Drushka (Harbour Publishing,

1992, p. 227), which is one of the very finest forestry books ever written. I am also indebted to Dave Challenger of Vancouver who is perhaps Canada's top authority on the history of chain saws. His collection of these early pioneer forerunners of today's mighty and efficient power saws is known worldwide, as are his library and reference files. Dave, his father J.W. and his uncle Don have spent their lives in the logging industry of British Columbia.

While testing these early chain saws at the Franklin River Division, Burns had the camp blacksmith make, out of double-bitted axes, a few with the chisel edge to chop out the horizontal undercuts, which was all the early machines could manage without biding.

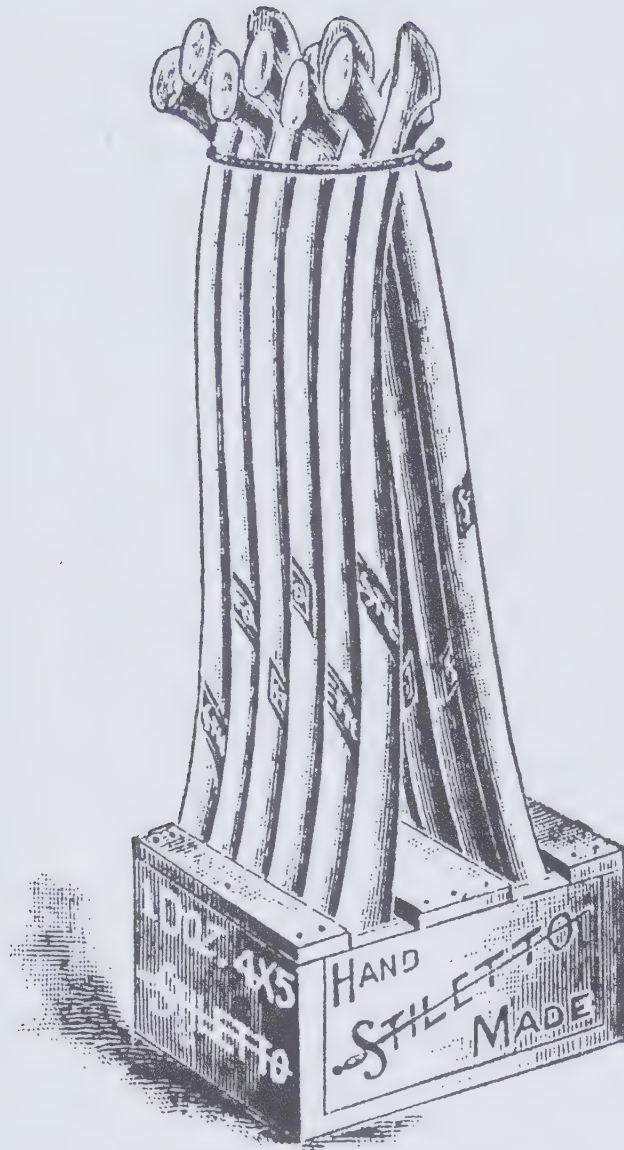
The company, recognizing an excellent idea, asked the Walters Axe Company of Hull, Quebec to make up a batch. Word got around quickly. By 1940 certainly, all major axe manufacturers were offering these new axes and they became standard tools all up and down the west coast.

The writer has in his collection undercutters manufactured by Sager, Warren, True Temper, Collins, Kelly Flint Edge, Burgess of Aylmer (Quebec), Mann American, and Welland Vale. These axes were made in weights of 3-3/4 to 5-1/2 lbs., and measured from 13 inches to 14 inches from blade to chisel edge.

George L. Burns died in Vancouver January 5, 1998, age 82 years. He had been in ill health for some years. Good falling and sawing in your new forest, George - your axe will always be remembered on the West coast of North America.



* Others known to manufacture this pattern: Mann Edge Tool Co. and Collins Co.



CHAPTER 3

AXE MAKERS OF THE U.S.A.

AMERICAN AXE

An Ill-Fated Experiment

The forests of America had much wider importance to the population in the 1880's. The logging, clearing and wood-heating of the day all required hand axe work. Consequently, axe factories dotted the eastern portions of the U.S.A. The business was highly competitive and prices very low - from 50 cents to one dollar per axe at the factory.

Some important factory owners of the day had the idea of combining the big factories into one vast manufacturing giant. The published idea was to pool their buying power to obvious advantages, but another, and perhaps truthful, aim was to control the marketing of this big portion of the axe market, thus the prices, and subsequently raise their profits.

The plan was successful at the outset; a fabulous job of salesmanship and organization to join 14 separate axe makers into the huge American Axe & Tool Manufacturing Company, in 1889. The companies were:

Hubbard & Co.	Pittsburg, PA
Hubbard & Blake Mfg. Co.	Waterville, ME
Francis Axe Co.	Buffalo, NY
Douglas Axe Mfg. Co.	East Douglas, MA
Johnsonville Axe Mfg. Co.	Johnsonville, NY
Jamestown Axe Co.	Jamestown, NY
Thos. R. Mann & Co.	Mill Hall, PA
Robt. Mann & Sons	Mill Hall, PA
J.E. Mann	Bellfonte, PA
Wm. Mann, Jr.	Lewistown, PA
Powell Tool Co.	Cleveland, OH
Romer Bros.	Dunkirk, NY
H. Knickerbacker & Co.	Ballston, NY
Underhill Edge Tool Co.	Nashua, NH

These were long established, large and famous companies, having over 80% of America's axe making production. The new company, with assets of over four million dollars and approaching 10,000 employees, built a large new plant at Glassport, Pennsylvania, and this became the corporation headquarters.

In addition to using all the old companies' labels and trademarks, their axes also carried one of two main logos.

But all was not that simple. The other makers fought back. Coupled with "growing pains" and "in-fighting," the corporation started to fall apart.

In 1891, Jos. R. Mann, Secretary, pulled out and started his own plant at Lewistown, Pennsylvania, in 1892.

In 1900, they had to close some factories for economic reasons, and in 1904, they sold off the two Mann factories at Mill Hall, Pennsylvania.

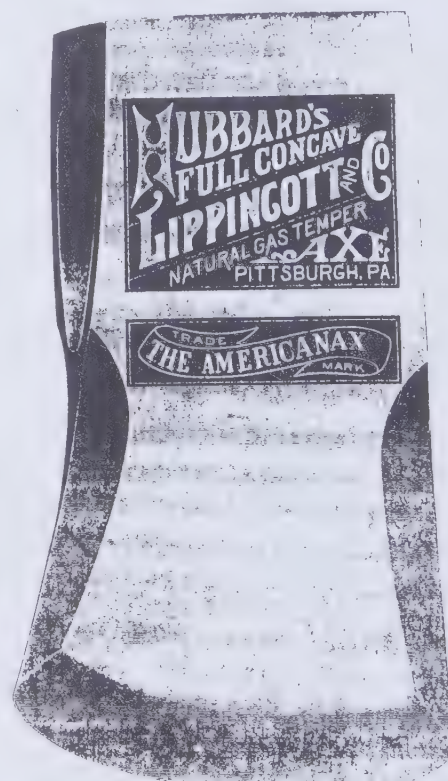
In 1902, Jas. H. Mann, Treasurer, resigned and formed his own company near Lewistown, Pennsylvania.

By 1909, about seven other member companies had resumed operation under their original names, leaving only the main plant in Glassport. This set-up continued for the next 12 years, most of them troubled with internal problems and annual losses.

1921 saw the final curtain. The Kelly Axe Mfg. Co. purchased all assets and moved the equipment into their giant operation in Charleston, West Virginia, making it the largest edge tool factory in the world.

During their years, American Axe had continued to use most of the original 14 companies' labels, and Kelly also had the rights to these labels.

In addition to the great axes left to posterity, American Axe prided themselves on the beautiful catalogues they issued each year. Lucky is the collector who has one of these in his library.



(ca. 1894)



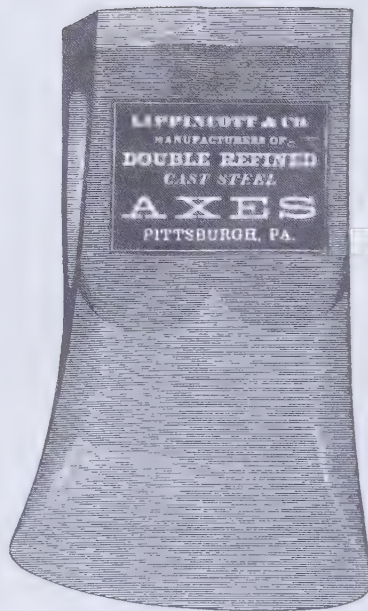
TRADE

Octagon Handle
MARK

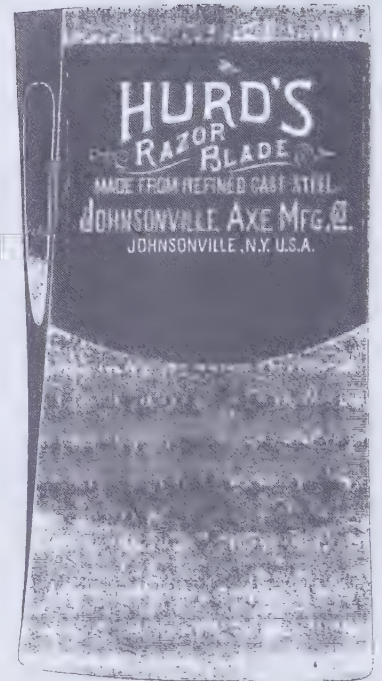
This page features a selection of axes made by member companies of A.A. & T. either before or after their involvement with the Trust.



Dayton Pattern

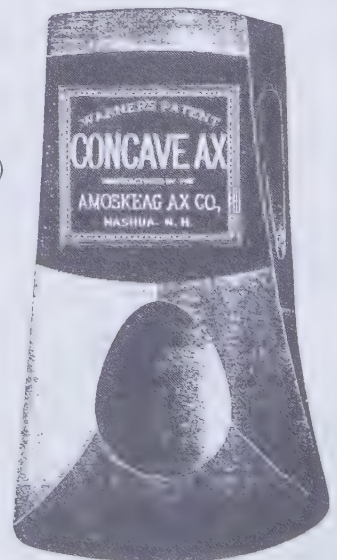


Dayton Pattern



Canada Pattern

(ca. 1894)





Wisconsin
(ca. 1919)



Patent Punched Poll
Western Pattern
(ca. 1890)



AMOSKEAG AXE COMPANY

Of Manchester, New Hampshire

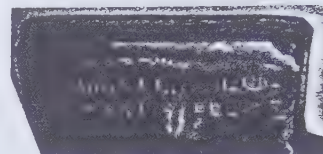
The ever-increasing activity in the great pine forests of the East Coast and the natural increase in the demand for good axes led to a group of makers incorporating a new axe company in the Blodgett Factory, in Manchester, New Hampshire, in 1853.

The plant, at the north end of the Upper Canal, was 160 x 60 feet, three stories high, and was equipped with all new machinery. Operation did not commence until the start of 1855 with 40 full-time workers. The capital stock of \$35,000 was found inadequate to support the fast-growing sales causing many problems. This led, in 1862, to the formation of a new company with better financing, and it took over the operation, calling it the Amoskeag Axe Company. The new company grew rapidly, so within three years the workforce was over 60, with 14 trip-hammers in action. That year the company was able to produce 144,000 tools, worth about \$140,000, including hatchets, picks and other edge tools. With the wide-spread demand for these quality tools, and the full assortment of axes offered, they were well received by the retail dealers.

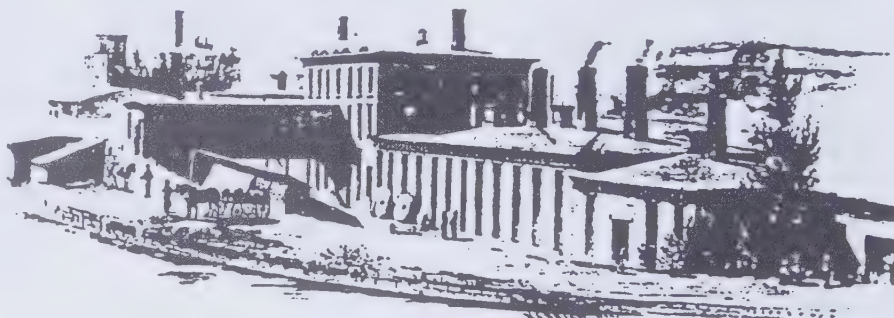
Amoskeag continued to grow until the Underhill Company bought them out in 1879. This made Underhill the largest edge tool maker in New Hampshire, with 90 full time axe makers. Because of the wide acceptance and the popularity of the Blodgett Tools, all Underhill labels and advertisements included the statement, "Successors to Amoskeag Axe Co."

Organization of the huge "Axe Trust" The American Axe & Tool Company of Glassport, Pennsylvania, whose idea was to convince 15 of the largest makers in America to join together with the aim of cutting costs and controlling the market. So, in 1890 they convinced Underhill to close and move

their machinery to the huge new factory at Glassport. Of course, the Underhill names and labels would continue to be made and sold by American Axe & Tool Company until 1921.



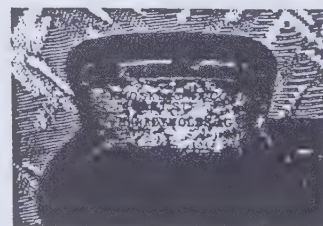
A rare Blodgett Carpenters axe (1855-1862). The factory became New Hampshire's largest tool manufacturing plant until sold by Underhill in 1890.



The original Amoskeag Axe Company plant about 1865 by artist Henry Walker Merrick.



This is an Amoskeag broad axe. It is remarkable for being one of the earliest of all cast-steel axes made. It shows the agent's name, M.C. Reynolds.



The stamp on the axe shown left. Below the Amoskeag mark is "M.C. REYNOLDS, AG."

D.R. BARTON TOOL COMPANY

One of the very best edge tool makers of all time, although inactive for over 115 years, D.R. Barton is well-known and well remembered by tool collectors everywhere.

David R. Barton commenced making axes and edge tools in 1832. During the forty-three years he ran his own plant, his tools were known world-wide. Every tool which left the plant had to exhibit perfection!

A newspaper report published shortly after his death in 1875, tells his story eloquently, and so I am repeating it here.

"David R. Bartori is a name familiar to every mechanic in the United States and to many throughout the civilized world. Forty-four years ago, at a time when this industry was comparatively unknown in this country, he commenced the manufacture of Mechanic's Edge Tools, and from that time until his death, his untiring energy and persistent purpose were devoted to the establishment of a reputation which has become world-wide."

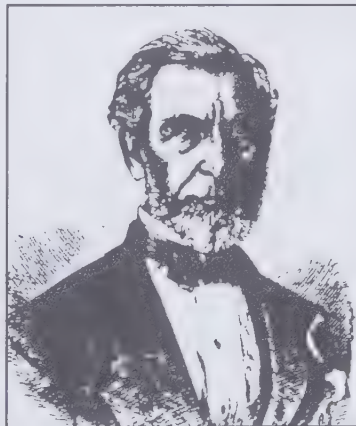
"No article of American production connected with the hardware trade, we may safely say, has proved a more decided and complete success than 'Barton's Tools,' and to this statement we will have the cheerful assent of all intelligent and impartial members of the trade in the United States." (from *The Iron Age*, 1876)

This reputation he bequeathed to his family and insured to them by the incorporation of the D.R. Barton Tool Company, a short time prior to his death in April, 1875. The *Iron Age* further commented:

"He died at the head of the greatest factory in that line of business in the United States. There is no doubt that Mr. Barton was the father of the Edge Tool business in America.

"Certain it is that there is no other manufacturer of any importance at the time he began work. Some idea of the magnitude of his establishment may be

gained by the announcement that it annually turned out more Coopers' Tools than all the other factories of the U.S. together. It employed over 200 men, representing nearly as many families, and is was estimated that over 1,000 persons were supported by the labor furnished there. No man ever worked for D.R. Barton who did not honor and respect and love him. There are men in the factory today who have been employed there for more than 30 years. Mr. Barton was a gentleman of exceptionally high personal character, sincerely and profoundly pious and zealous in good works. As a citizen he was identified with all praiseworthy enterprises and occupied many positions of high responsibility. His loss will be deeply felt by a wide circle of personal and business friends and by the city in which he has so successfully and honorably carried on the manufacturing operation in which he gained more than a national reputation."



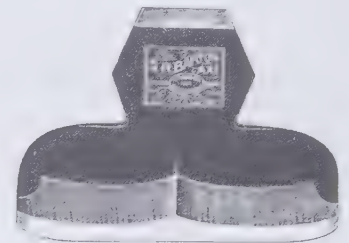
David R. Barton

It is noted that Mr. W.W. Mack became a partner in 1866. But after Barton's death, April 27, 1875, Mack purchased the plant and equipment and incorporated Mack & Co. He publicly announced he was the successor to D.R. Barton & Co. and was "the sole maker of D.R. Barton & Co. Brand," operating the same plant at 136 Mill Street.

However, a very confusing condition existed, because a son of the late David Barton had started a new axe factory further down Mill Street a year before the death of his father. He called his company "D.R. Barton Tool Company" and had it incorporated in 1875. Charles C. Barton was president and H.G. Hamilton was secretary.

Although it is true that as many as 100 of the original workmen joined his company, the Hardware Trade recognized that Mack Tool Co., Inc. indeed had the legal right to the famous old trademark and by 1880 the son's business became insolvent and was taken over by Mack & Son, who were now the sole manufacturers of the famous D.R. Barton Tools.

Mack Tool Co., Inc. finally closed their factory in 1928, 96 years after David Barton introduced his great axes and edge tools.



Canada Pattern

ESTABLISHED, 1832.
THE
INCORPORATED, 1875.

D. R. BARTON TOOL COMPANY,
Manufacturers of
GENUINE D. R. BARTON EDGE TOOLS.

STAMPED AND
WARRANTED

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

In no branch of industry have American mechanics been more successful than in the manufacture of Edge Tools. They have not only supplanted imported tools in our own country but have become articles of export, not only to countries which are not producers and consequently purchase their supplies in the markets of the world, but American mechanics have beard the Lion in his den, and, to-day, American Edge Tools, even in England, are acknowledged to be superior to all others, and certainly no productions of this class are more widely known than those of the D. R. Barton Tool Company.

THE BEATTY AXE of Pennsylvania

Another of America's most successful axe factories was a family affair of many generations, lasting almost 100 years.

The founder of this great name in Axes was William Beatty who, in 1806, commenced operations at Waterville, Pennsylvania, with four hired hands. But no one could guess that his intense determination to produce top quality axes which also boasted beautiful symmetry and full polish would be so much in demand.

Most of the small makers and blacksmiths were not able to provide this added dimension. The combination of quality construction and beautiful finish was the trade mark of the Beatty axe through the years, and it paid off.

In 1829, more space was required, so William Beatty selected a new site in Springfield, Pennsylvania. His son, John C. had been working with him for some time so by 1840, as William was feeling his years, John was offered a full partnership, none too soon, it seems, as William died three years later, on March 12, 1843. The company name was still William Beatty & Son.

John C. stayed on as owner until 1850 when he sold out to his younger brother William P., and his half-brother, Sam Ogden. But by 1860, he had a change of heart and re-purchased Ogden's half interest, acting as co-manager with William P. Beatty. This lasted two years when the younger Beatty transferred his share to a Mr. John A. Caldwell.

By 1867, John C. Beatty came to retirement and a Mr. Thomas W. Woodward took his shares. This was the only period where the name of Beatty was not listed in ownership, but it did not last long as William H., a fourth generation Beatty, became owner on January 1, 1869.

The next year, 1870, saw the long planned move to Chester, PA, William's son John was now involved. Quoting from the Ohio Tool Box of March '91, we have this description of the new facilities: "located on 2 acres, the plant was 88 ft. wide by 1,000 ft. long. The forge shop was 70' x 40'; the grinding and turning mill was 130' x 22', the second story of which was the polishing and handling department, and the engine room was 18' x 30' housing a 60 horsepower Corliss steam engine."

The new factory had 13 forge fires, 8 trip-hammers, and "all the best attendant machinery and equipment for such a large maker of high quality tools." Quoting the publication 19th Century Factories of Pennsylvania, 1875, "They obtained the reputation of the very best quality of edge tool."

Nearly 60 dozen tools were finished each day, including hatchets, axes and a wide variety of other edge tools. The total work force was reported at 40 hands. This was the picture from the opening in 1871 and for the next eight years and the company was well-known as the Chester Edge Tool Works, although the proper registered name was WM. BEATTY & SON. It was some time in this period that the stamped trade-mark of the "cow" was introduced and became so well-known and famous. It lasted until the end of the company, somewhere after 1920 - over 115 years of the founder William C. Beatty's influence.

These family generations recognized the importance of appearance as well as durability of the axe and for almost all this period, a Beatty was personally present to oversee the works.





G.W. BRADLEY AXE CO. of Weston, Connecticut

Another of the early long-lived axe companies was the G.W. Bradley Edge Tool Factory which was started in Weston, Connecticut, in 1812. This plant was destined to make axes for almost 100 years and during this time the Bradley families were actively involved.

The founder, Wakeman Bradley had served his apprenticeship with an old family friend, David Wakeman, in Southport. As a matter of fact, he was named after Mr. Wakeman. His well-made axes were recognized as special and his business became solidly established. Wakeman made axes all his life.

Eventually, his sons Gershom Wakeman Bradley and Miles Bradley, (Gershom being the eldest) were both working in the factory. When the father died in 1854, it was Miles who took control and even built a brand new factory. He, too, made axes his entire life.

When Miles died, it was his brother-in-law, Henry Ogden who took over

management and continued in that capacity until 1882. When he did step down that year, it was his younger brother DeWitt who assumed command. Also associated with him at this time was Gershom Warren Bradley, his half-brother.

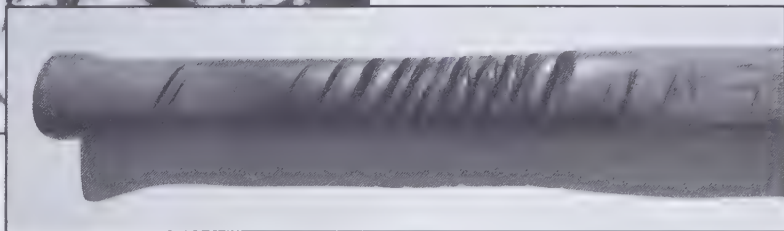
They were using Sheffield bar steel imported in 10 foot lengths, four inches wide. Also, they used the standard natural stone grinding wheels 8 feet in diameter, 9 inches wide and weighing over 2 tons. The grinding hall had at least eight of these giant wheels in operation at any given time.

The advertising during this period of the company's history quoted the president:

"All tools are made from best Norway iron and best English cast steel: And the aim is not to make a tool to compete in price, but to excel in quality and to sell only the best article it is possible to manufacture: A trial is all we ask."

The business prospered until 1905 when DeWitt died and G. Warren Bradley decided to sell his interest (1906). The purchasers, a partnership of a Mr. Adams and Mr. Staples, had problems keeping the volume and quality up to the Bradley standards and it was only about four years before they had to consider closing entirely.

The industry and talent of Wakeman Bradley from 1812 through the century, saw his roster grow to as many as 100 workers, producing a product of the highest standard of quality. The Bradley Axe was known across the nation. The G.W. Bradley Edge Tool Factory was among the largest in the U.S.A. and so it was a sad day, in 1911, when fire levelled it thus ending the manufacture of one of America's best axes, recognized by wholesalers, jobbers, hardware stores and the broad range of axe-users wherever axes were required.



These markings on the handles of some buckers' axes are somewhat rare and are much sought after by axe collectors. A technique called "Under Bucking" leaves these grooves when the logger cuts the log from the bottom side as he rests the saw on the axe handle in order to cut the log from the bottom up. The editor is still looking for a Bradley axe with markings on the handle like this axe handle from John Nolte's collection. (See picture above from the book "Logging" by Ed Gould.)

BROOKS EDGE TOOL Manufacturing Co.

This pioneer axe making company had its start when Bezaleel Brooks was born in 1785 in New Marlborough, Massachusetts and apprenticed as a blacksmith when he was 15 or so. By 1810 he began his own operation in New Haven, Vermont.

This business he moved to Middlebury in 1822 for a better site and more opportunity. Here he remained until 1895, and a move which took him to Moriah, New York.

By 1843 his three eldest sons were running the business back in Beeman's Hollow in New Haven, which soon became known as Brooksville, reflecting the influence the group had in the area.

The company was called Brooks and Brothers. Bezaleel died April 20, 1849. Now, with five brothers working the forges, it is recorded they reached production of approximately 60,000 axes by the 1850's.

The axes were well received and records show they were sold across the west and exported to Canada. Many awards were won at state fairs. The company thrived until the 1890's when competition from the huge Collins & Kelly factories were hurting many family operations. After 70 years of axe industry, this pioneer, hardworking family of five brothers were no longer in business with the death of Norman Crane Brooks, February 9, 1900. Examples of their fine work are found rarely, but it is known there are many waiting to be added to the list to show what beautiful axes were like in this era of handmade axes.

For those who would like to read the full interesting story of the Brooks family, look up the wonderfully researched history by Ralph E. Brooks.

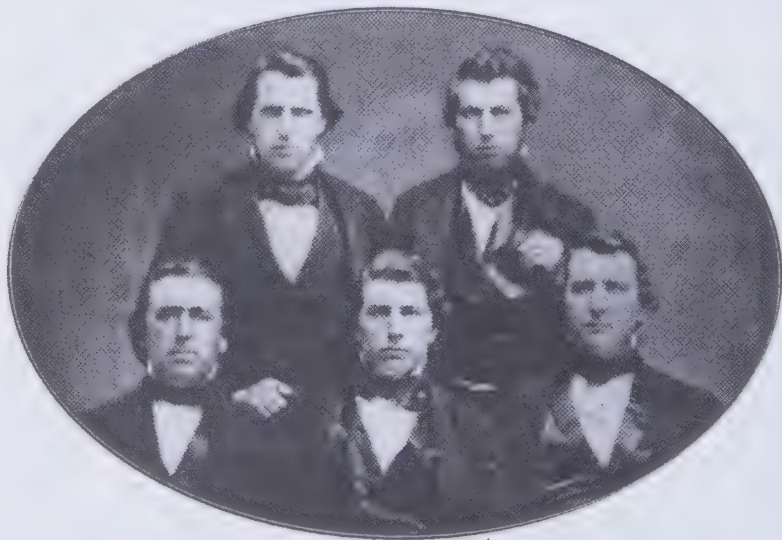
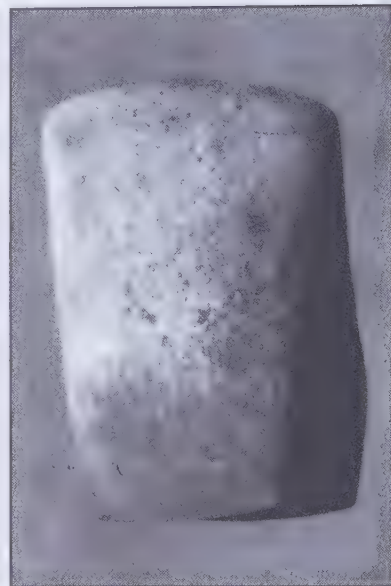
BROOK'S
VERMONT
AXE

MANUFACTURED BY

BROOK'S EDGE TOOL CO.,
BROOKSVILLE, VT.

It can be driven into the wood further with less force and pulled out more easily than any other axe in the market.
The edges being deeply scoloped cannot bind in the wood.
There is no shoulder under the eye against which the wood can strike; the scollop allowing the chip to slide over the body of the Axe.
The Vermonter is made of the very best materials and under our personal superintendence.

WT. LBS.



*Pictured are the five Brooks brothers who forged the business.
Top row, left to right: Milton and Luther Martin Brooks. Bottom row, left to right: Thomas McDonough, Norman Crane and Jonathan Edwards Brooks.*



COUNCIL TOOL COMPANY, INC.

One of the few axe makers still operating in America is also one of the most interesting. Still managed by members of the founding family of 100 years ago (1886), this plant has kept up with the changing times and new manufacturing procedures.

President J.M. Council Jr. is rightly proud of the high standard and wide range of axes and tools offered. Using only the best of American steel and handled with wonderful American hickory or the new Fiberglass handles (the COPPERHEAD line) the most important ingredient are the craftsmen of North Carolina, some with fourth generation connections.

When you see their "Full Polish, Special Line" of axes, you'll know what I mean - these workers' pride of workmanship shows!

There are also the "Professional Quality" VELVICUT axes and the standard RAIL SPLITTER line.

Some of the special patterns made by this proud, old company at the Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina, factory are the 6 lbs. FLATHEAD fire axe, the unusual EL LOBO axe, the PULASKI, the CEDAR axe, the HUDSON'S BAY pattern, and the double bitted CEDAR axe.

The full line of axes may be ordered with curved or straight handles from 15" to 36" - very innovative!

In addition to axes, the Council Company manufactures a full line of striking tools, bars, forest and "shrubbing" tools. Watch for their fine axes as they are sold in every state, and they are the collectibles of tomorrow.





THE DIXIE AXES

Beck and Gregg

Axe collectors find, from time to time, interesting, well-made specimens with intriguing names and we naturally wonder where these collectibles originated.

One such, the "Dixie" was located in a number of patterns, but because the labels were acid-etched and top quality, one has to wonder about the origin of this brand. In this case, the brand was owned by a 100 year old hardware company called Beck & Gregg, Inc. of Atlanta, Georgia. The hardware firm was founded by V.R. Tommey and J.S. Stewart in 1866. There were two young, enthusiastic employees, Louis H. Beck and William A. Gregg. Both of these young men proved themselves and were soon in senior executive positions, so that by 1878 they were able to take over the operation.

It was not until 1883, however, that they incorporated as Beck & Gregg Hardware Company, with \$85,000 capital stock and plans to expand this to \$250,000, very respectable sums for the time. Beck was president and Gregg was treasurer.

Several expansions and moves were recorded through the years, and along with other hardware, they supplied a large variety of axes, hatchets, and tradesmen's tools - branded "Dixie," of course.

The top of this line of embossed axes was supplied by Vaughan & Bushnell of Chicago, which tells us that they were indeed a first-quality product. These etched labeled axes could not be manufactured after approximately 1942 due to wartime manpower restrictions.

Ownership of the company changed hands in the early 1980's when General Hardware of Chicago purchased the shares from the "B & G" families and closed up entirely about 1993.

This is another story of the axes in America during the "Axe-Age" when

one could choose from a wide variety of the best axes made in the world. Now it seems, only four or so factories make axes in America and that is why collectors so eagerly seek these specimens from our vanishing axe history, and "Dixie" axes certainly qualify.



*A Beck & Gregg Hardware Company axe head.
Notice the deeply stamped mark.*



DOUGLAS AXE

This was one of America's largest axe makers - started by the Hunt Brothers, Joseph and Oliver, who were blacksmiths in East Douglas, Massachusetts in 1798. They were making such good axes that soon the demand forced them to specialize. Sons Warren and Otis entered as apprentices, with Warren taking full control in 1830. He took Alexander Scudder in as a partner soon after this but the company name remained Warren Hunt & Co.

The partnership was dissolved in 1835 and Warren turned it into a public corporation, changing the name to Douglas Axe Manufacturing Co., and although this remained the legal name of the company to the very end (1910), owners and heirs always remembered the "moving finger," Warren Hunt, and his name continued to appear on all the first-line axes and tools manufactured until then.

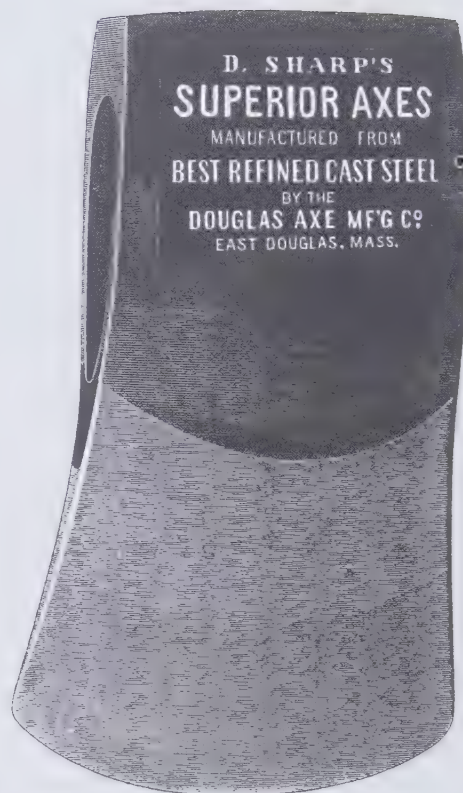
They did sell other qualities of products, namely D. SHARP and L. QUIN. Much of the early history of the company is preserved in the records of a spectacular court case in the 1860's which stemmed from a trademark squabble.

Nothing, however, could stall the making of great, high-quality edge tools. By 1882, the company was a thriving operation with six separate factories in East Douglas the Main Plant, the Lovett Works, the New Shops, the Upper Plant, the House Works, and the Gilboa Works.

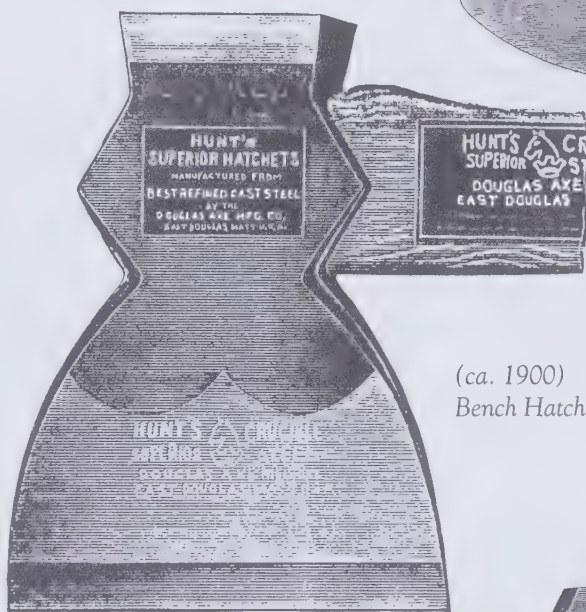
The treasurer, D.D. Dana, reported that their exhibit at the Paris Exposition covered 360 square feet and displayed over 1000 axes and tools. It was "extremely successful." He also stated that "production this year will be one million axes and tools."

In 1889, the company "threw-in" with 14 other makers to form the great "American Axe" experiment. The factory at East Douglas, Massachusetts, was still in production until 1910. After this date all Douglas Axes were made at the Glassport, Pennsylvania factory of A.A. & T.

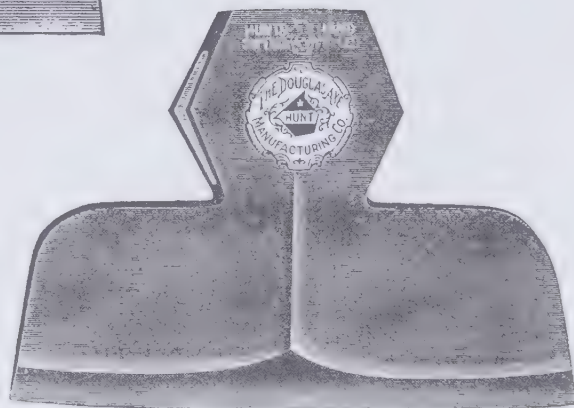
In British Columbia, an advertisement in the June 17, 1865 issue of the Barkerville News told of the availability of "DOUGLAS AXES AND HATCHETS," and many good specimens have been found in that province. The late L. Robert Carman, of Sebastopol, California, wrote a scholarly paper on the Hunt & Douglas tools, but it remains unpublished, regrettably, due to his sudden passing early in 1988.



(ca. 1877)
Ohio Pattern



(ca. 1900)
Bench Hatchet



(ca. 1900)
Broad Axe
Canada Pattern

EMERSON & STEVENS of Oakland, Maine

"The Whole Town Made Axes!"

Emerson's Stream was fed by a 185 square mile watershed and dropped 110 feet in just over two miles. This provided the source of power which ran as many as 15 axe factories. The first, or one of the first to start up here, was Flint Barton, in 1773, and when he died in 1833, he left 13 sons - some of course, becoming blacksmiths and axe makers.

The first exclusive "edge tool manufacturer" the author can identify was Reuben B. Dunn, who, starting in 1857, became one of the largest in the area. Next of note was Daniel P. Lord, who employed eight workers and was credited with making some 3,300 axes per year.

Soon (1862) John Hubbard and W.P. Blake formed a partnership, and in the next 10 years grew big enough to turn out 1,500 dozen axes annually. This plant was to become part of the American Axe & Tool conglomerate in 1889, as plant #16.

Emerson & Stevens Mfg. CO., which started in 1870, also grew very quickly and one published report, 1891, stated they employed 48 men and made approximately 3,000 dozen axes and a quantity of other edge tools annually. Throughout their 95 years specializing in axes, they continued to "hand-hammer" these, up until the day they closed in 1965. As such, they were the very last large maker to retain the old handmade techniques! Their axes were very popular, known for appearance and quality. Some of their fancy labels were:

PIONEER
PINE TREE
LUMBERMAN'S PRIDE
DIAMOND
VICTORY
FOREST KING

Ever since the plant closed, 24 years ago, collectors have anxiously sought specimens. The fact is, these axes are the hardest of any 20th century maker to acquire. The writer has only one, thanks to Lawrence Lyford, of Exeter, New Hampshire. Thinking back, this fine old factory and determined owners were fighting an uphill battle against the new, all-steel, punch-out axe, but they maintained their integrity to the end. Their hand-hammered (handmade!) axes are a proud possession for any collector. The voluminous records of this company are preserved in the Maine State Museum in Augusta, Maine.



(ca. 1920)



The other Oakland axe makers were:

Spiller Axe & Tool Co.	J.H. Witherell
New England Axe Co.	Damon Bros.
Dunn Edge Tool Co.	Maine Axe Co.
North Wayne Tool Co.	Union Axe Co.
King Axe & Tool Co.	Peavey Mfg. Co.
Hubbard & Blake Co.	Wm. Harvey & Sons
American Axe & Tool Co. (#16)	Marsh & Sons Co.





FOSTER & ROBERTSON

Portland's Queen Bee

Around this continent, over the early years of the hardware trade, many companies became notable because they were heavily involved in "tools for the trades."

What makes Foster & Robertson, wholesale and retail hardware merchants, more noteworthy to tool collectors is the fact that they were active at the beginnings of Portland, Oregon, back in the 1860's.

Seattle, the queen city of the Northwest, was not even a village at the time.

John R. Foster must have been a very energetic and knowledgeable man, as he is listed in the annual directories as a retail and wholesale dealer, carrying lines of material to service the agriculture, mining, fishing and forestry industries. Early on, he chose a trade mark - a QUEEN BEE - which was either stamped on or labeled to most of the tools he sold. These turn up occasionally and are fine additions to collections which also cover the early history of Portland.

Foster had different street addresses over the years and for a long time, two separate locations. He was one of those people who could choose very capable and experienced agents, which paid off over the years. One such person was E.J. Dehart, who eventually went on to form the largest such company in Oregon - The Honeyman & Dehart Co.

Another, a young Scotsman and bookkeeper, David Robertson, was employed in 1873 and became a full partner in 1880 - forming the Foster & Robertson Partnership, lasting well into the 1920's.

Oregon was a wonderful new state, blessed with a multitude of natural resources and a fine, equitable climate. Logging was the foremost industry and the population was mushrooming, an

ideal basis for a progressive and well-run hardware business. Foster & Robertson grew along with this burgeoning population and had to open larger premises.

But the main reason we remember Foster & Robertson is because the record they left in old tools, clearly marked with a QUEEN BEE and PORTLAND, O. They are among the few tools marked as to city and company from this early period.



Foster & Robertson marked the tools they sold with QUEEN BEE, PORTLAND, O.

HONEYMAN HARDWARE

The large, excellent and famous hardware company known as Honeyman Hardware Company in Portland, Oregon, had roots going back to a company started by Mr. R.S. Blossom in 1856. It was located at Front and Yamhill Streets.

Amongst a series of changes in ownership, we see Mr. E.J. DeHart brought out from New York as manager in 1865, and it was not long before he was a partner. The name was changed to Thompson-DeHart & Company. In 1871, a Scottish iron monger, William Honeyman, arrived in Portland and was offered a job by the company. It was not long, perhaps 1876, before he too was able to buyout the Thompson half and change the name to Honeyman-DeHart & Co.

Later, when Mr. DeHart died, Honeyman purchased all shares, changing the name to Honeyman Hardware Company. Mr. Honeyman was a top businessman, very capable and intelligent. He built the company to a point where it was serving both the wholesale and retail aspects of the hardware business. He had as many as 20 retail clerks on the floor and 23 travelling salesmen contacting the logging camps and construction jobs.

This fine old company, whose history and growth paralleled the story of Portland itself, was one of the region's largest suppliers of logging tools, axes, and other equipment through the years.

Their catalogues show over 180 axe patterns and their own labels were famous and respected. One of these, FOREST KING, was their top-quality line and had a fully etched label. Others were B.O.A. (Best-of-all), WILLAMETTE and SPECIAL.

They were also the exclusive representatives of the John Storm Handle Co., of Kirksville, Missouri, for the Pacific Northwest.

After almost 90 years of involvement with the history of the west coast sales, the name temporarily vanished. Not for long, however, as we find it again active in hardware circles - in the Honeyman Co., of Bellevue, Washington, with a fourth generation of the famous family, Ron C. Honeyman, actively carrying on.

California Reversible



(All illustrations ca. 1905)



JAMESTOWN AXE COMPANY

The interesting story of axes during the huge "Axe Age" in America (1850-1960) is made up of many regional axe factories of the Eastern quarter of the U.S.A. One of these basic makers was located in Jamestown, New York. It was founded by Charles L. Jeffords in 1834, on Buffalo Street near the railroad, and was always called "Jeffords" Axe Factory."

However, in 1889, in partnership with 14 other similar manufacturers, they formed the huge and ill-fated trust the American Axe & Tool Company.

Up to that time, the Jeffords had built a well-run and respected axe business. Mr. Jeffords had a canny sense of choosing the best axesmiths available to keep up the reputation of making top-grade tools for which he was famous. In the 1860's, Nicholas Romer was in his employ. Romer eventually established his own company in Gowanda, New York, making his "Gowanda" axe, which was known across America. There were others, such as John V.N. Jeffords, Fred T. Powell, E.F. Carpenter, Charles and August Johnson, W.J. John, R. and Dennis Murphy, and Frank T. Sager. The latter was the son of William Sager, the genius of Sager-Warren Axes of Warren, Pennsylvania. All of these men became well-known in the industry.

Dennis Murphy, for example, was spirited away to the struggling Warren Axe Company to improve their operation raising it to the greatest success in axe making. He spent the balance of his life as superintendent of Warren and was succeeded by his son, William J. Murphy, an industry leader.

Jeffords Company was capitalized at \$30,000 and quickly built up its work force to over 20 makers with an output of up to 3,000 dozen axes per month. As noted, this was one of the founding companies of the great "American Axe" trust experiment. It was an idea to control costs of materials and in that way control prices of the finished product. They built a huge modern plant in Glassport, Pennsylvania, but many

problems of management and pressure from the U.S. Government anti-trust action harassed them out of business by the end of 1910. The finale was in 1921 when Kelly, of Charleston, West Virginia, took over all the remaining assets.

During the 56 years the Jeffords family operated at Jamestown, they were recognized as makers of fine edge tools. Their advertisements (below) stated: "My axes have no superior in the market." Jeffords was a cornerstone in the great and interesting "Axe Age" in America. When collectors examine their specimens, they can see the care and experience that went into their manufacture.



JAMESTOWN CITY DIRECTORY.

Established in 1834.

Jamestown Edge Tool Works,
JAMESTOWN, N. Y.

C. L. JEFFORDS,
MANUFACTURER OF

A X E S ,

AND ALL MANNER OF

EDGE TOOLS,

Such as Adzes, Chisels, Broad Axes, Etc.

My Axes have no superior in the Market. All orders promptly filled

KELLEY & CO.

Kelley with an "E"

Benjamin Kelley, born in Boothbay, Maine (1800-1873) chose blacksmithing, an honored profession. After learning his trade and achieving a proficiency in axemaking, he set out to locate a site to spend the rest of his life making a name for himself and his fine dependable axes.

The spot he found, in 1820, was in the heart of the still-virgin pine stands of central Maine, the city of Belfast. The place he selected on the Goose River proved to be perfect so that he and his following three generations continued producing the highest quality axe possible for 110 years with ample water power to sustain four additions to his factory.

Benjamin was determined to master each stage of the laborious job of making such axes, and all who knew him said "he set the example of integrity and honesty" for those who worked for him. His policy of using "only the very best materials" and supervising his staff in every department paid off. The Kelley "pine cone axe" became the choice of lumbermen and loggers all over the Pine Tree State, Maine, especially in the Moosehead, Kennebec, Aroostook, Penobscot and Piscataquis counties. One would be looked at strangely if he used other than a Kelley axe.

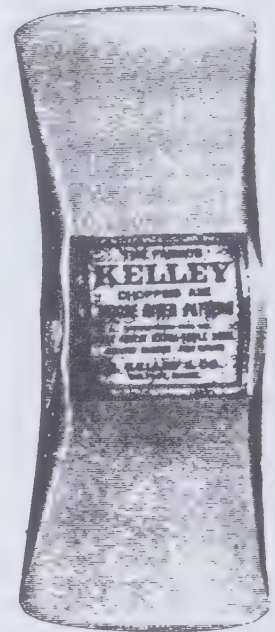
Their most popular types were the Aroostook Wedge, the New England pattern and the Moose River double-bitted. The well-known Sawyer Pattern Sleeper Axe for making railway ties was a full wedge axe with a 7-1/2" wide cutting edge.

Benjamin's son, Benjamin Jr., (born in 1834) soon took his place in the factory and when Senior dies in 1873, the management and leadership naturally passed to him, shared with Walter A. Rankin, a brother-in-law. The product and policy carried on until 1893, when Benjamin Jr. died.

Family, in the persons of grandsons and great-grandsons of the founder, managed the plant until it closed in 1929.

Over the 100 years this company was in operation, all axes issued were first quality only and unconditionally warranted. They were deep stamped along the top face "B. KELLEY & CO." "not to be confounded with any other Kelly Axe," as their ads warned. In those days, when men lived by their axes, it was a comfort to know your axe was a Kelley - very few, if any, ever failed to give a full life of service under the hardest of conditions.

Moose River Pattern.
Double-Bitt



Two Axes in One for the Experienced Woodsman. Not Too Heavy to Swing All Day. A Sharp Edge Always at Hand. For Felling and Limbing.



KELLY-TRUE TEMPER

The Largest Axe Factory in the World

The history of this company is a very long and confused story, covering 150 years and featuring the largest list of trade names and labels of any axe maker.

The company started with Lyman Batcheller, 1835, in Wallingford, Vermont. He and two sons were the beginnings of what was to be the giant of axe factories.

In 1874, J.P. Kelly absorbed Batcheller and built a new plant at Alexandria, Indiana, under the name Kelly Axe Manufacturing Co. Fifteen years later, his son, W.C. Kelly, was building his own business in Louisville, Kentucky.

The younger Kelly's inventive and business genius soon produced fabulous growth. His refinements to the Bessemer process of making steel along with his patented axes - W.C. KELLY PERFECT axe - built his sales so quickly that in 1907 he had built a much larger factory in Charleston, West Virginia, to meet the demand.

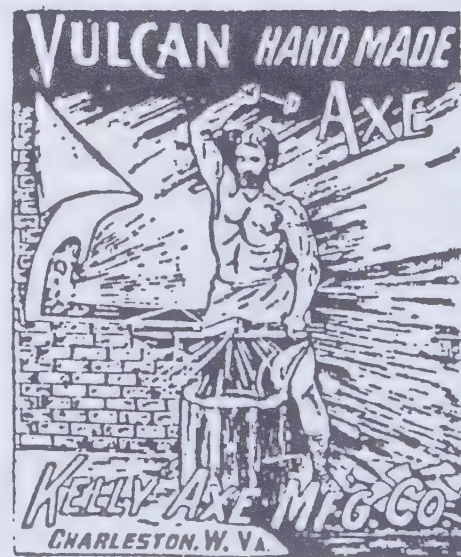
This factory was to become the largest axe plant in the world. Such names as KELLY WOOD SLASHER, KELLY REGISTERED axe (each axe was engraved with its own serial number), COPPER KING, BATTLE axe, VULCAN HAND MADE, FALLS CITY axe, FLINT EDGE axe, and of course, the nationally known pattern, KELLY PERFECT axe, (both single and double bit) kept sales figures jumping year after year.

Now, thanks to an original letter from Kelly to the trade, dated September 1, 1921, we can confirm that Kelly did indeed buyout the entire American Axe operation and moved it "bodily" to Charleston, leaving no question that it was now the largest axe factory in the world!

Along with all machinery, the company now also owned full right and title to all names, labels and patterns of

the former "axe trust." Kelly's 1921 catalogue, 145 pages of axes, shows that the following former American Axe labels were being offered:

KEEN RIDGE
DIAMOND "A"
UNDERHILL
W. STEWART'S SUPERIOR
AMERICAN Axe
A.A. & T.
RED RIDGE
DUQUESNE
ROB'T MANN SUPERIOR
BLODGETT
ROB'T MANN HAND MADE
THE JAY
BLAIR'S VICTORY
HUBBARD'S SILVER STEEL
INVINCIBLE
LIPPINCOTT
PHANTOM
BEVEL
AMOSKEAG
DOUBLE REFINED
RED WARRIOR
THOS. R. MANN SUPERIOR
DOUGLAS
WM. MANN WARRIOR
HUNT'S
NIAGARA
USONA
PEERLESS
BLOOD'S CHAMPION
JAMESTOWN
HURD'S HAND MADE
PERFECTION
CRITERION
505
MOUNTAINEER
ROMER BROS.
GOWANDA
HURD'S RAZOR BLADE



Add to these the almost 200 labels that Kelly already had, some of which are listed here:

KELLY HAND MADE
 KELLY STANDARD
 KELLY REGISTERED (each axe numbered)
 BLACK RAVEN
 ABE LINCOLN
 SILVER EAGLE
 PERFECT
 R.C. THOMPSON-CHAMPION'S AXE
 COLUMBIAN
 RED ROVER
 COPPER KING
 BEST AXE MADE
 FLINT EDGE
 VULCAN
 OUR KNOT CHOPPER
 CHIPPEWA CHIEF
 FALLS CITY
 NATURAL GAS TEMPER

W.C. KELLY
 HAND HONED
 NEW ERA
 HOTTENTOT
 FARMER'S FRIEND
 CHIP SLINGER
 CHOPPER'S SUPPORT
 CRACKERJACK
 JIM DANDY
 VANADIUM

It is easy to imagine that the factory was a busy place. It is also to be remembered that their 18 other newly acquired manufacturing facilities had been moved into the new Charleston Plant earlier in the year. The only separated operation they had was their huge handle factory in Tennessee.





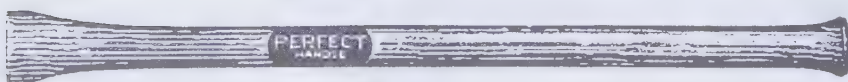
The next nine years saw continual prosperity and the introduction of many new labels and products. 1930, however, saw the depression taking its toll and the Kelly interests sold out to another giant - The American Fork & Hoe Co. They continued to use the world famous Kelly name, but in 1949, a new company, True Temper Corporation was introduced, selling both Kelly and True Temper axes.

A number of corporate changes came along starting in 1960 when the United Corp., of New York, purchased the company. Several years later, it was sold to the Allegheny Ludlum Corp. who, in 1970 changed their name to Allegheny International.

But it was not long before the chainsaw "cut down" this magnificent axe maker with almost 150 years to their credit. In 1983 came the decision that it was impossible to keep the huge Charleston factory operating. Probably the most sought after of all their products is the PERFECT axe, patented by Kelly, April 23 and May 7 of 1889.

The PERFECT axe featured forged "wedge-outs" (also called "phantom bev-els") leaving a solid neck from blade to eye. This construction was said to "burst the chip" and thus throw it clear - the axe was therefore not subject to binding in the cut.

The most important part, as far as collectors are concerned, is the very large embossed label. Stamped on the backside is the longest of any sales pitch to be found on an axe: "This axe is made of the finest steel and is hand-hammered, tempered, and tested before leaving the shop. The blade is so shaped it will cut deeper but will not bind. It will burst the chip and it will not become stubbed. It has a tapered eye which binds hard. Try it and you will use no other."



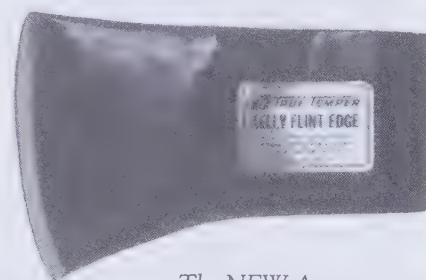
KELLY AXE MFG. CO.

INCORPORATED
MANUFACTURERS OF
AXES SCYTHES HATCHETS HAMMERS
GENERAL OFFICES
CHARLESTON, W. VA.

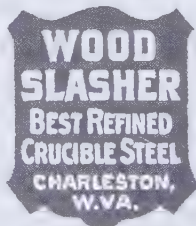
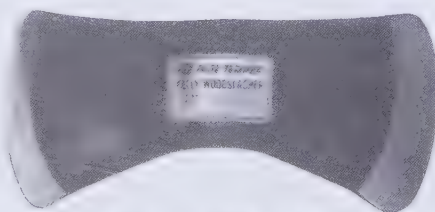
(from 1921 letterhead)

Millions were made and sold but today it is not easy to find one. Shamefully, I admit to not having a single one in my collection. The axe was made in "Boys" size, single 3-1/2 lb., and double bit.

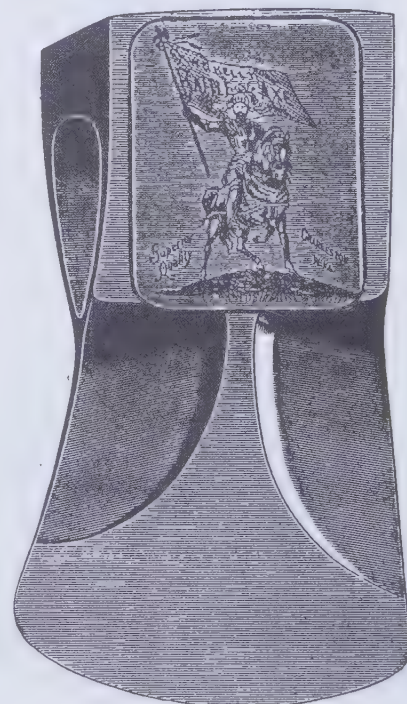
In 1987, Barco Industries, of Reading, Pennsylvania, acquired the dies, patents, trademarks and licences of the striking tool operation of the True Temper Division of Emhart Consumer Group. This company now offers the famous Kelly line of axes and hammers in the U.S.A.



The NEW Axe



Battle Axe





(ca. 1912)

The Hercules Axe

Throughout the years I have tried to research the source of the axe labelled Hercules in my collection. Until recently, I have not seen stories or reports of such a name.

By luck I got a lead from a long-closed axe factory, the huge and famous Kelly Axe manufacturing Company of Charleston, West Virginia. It was found in an order to their print shop, dated 1921, to prepare a batch for shipment of "Hercules" axes. Continuing along with my research, I eventually established that this order was for the Royal Stores Ltd. That clue showed it was or must be a Canadian company, as "Ltd." was not used in the U.S. This shortened the search.

By tracing the name Royal through the Canadian Gazette listings in Ottawa, I learned that the company was founded and operated in Newfoundland, a colony of Britain in the 1920's. Now, however, as a province of Canada, the path was somewhat easier. I learned that the company had gone bankrupt in 1977.

By luck, I was able to locate a former long-time employee of Royal, and learned that the name was registered after the founding of the company in 1895 in St. John's. The founders were brothers, Harold and Campbell MacPherson,

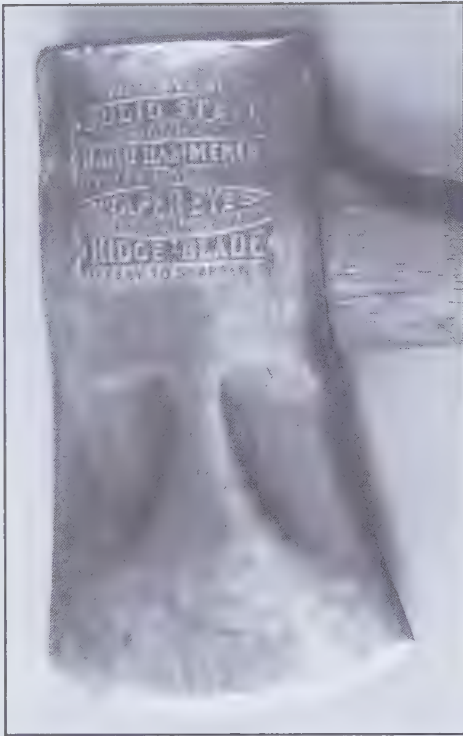


and the company remained in the family until the end.

Royal Stores grew and expanded through the years, and at one time was very prosperous. They opened a separate hardware branch in the Martin Royal Building, St. John's. Royal Stores became the largest retail organization of its kind in Newfoundland supplying tools, axes, and other equipment. The Hercules was well-known and widely used in Newfoundland and Labrador. But until I found my own example, brought west by a family moving here, I had never seen one.

As said, times change, and by 1977 Royal was obliged to declare bankruptcy. But the Hercules axe will long be remembered in Newfoundland.





These photographs are of the left and right cheeks of the same axe made by W.C. Kelly. It is very rare and to date, no other axe of this model has been found.

"This axe is SOLID STEEL and HAND HAMMERED. It has a TAPER EYE which binds handle and a RIDGE BLADE easy to sharpen."

"HUBBARD SPENCER BARTLETT & CO.
THE PIONEER Solid Steel
W.C. Kelly Pat May 7, '89"



"KELLY - OIL WHETTED - HAND HONED AXE"

I wish to thank Greg Strayer, owner of these Kelly axes, for allowing these pictures to be printed in this book. Greg Strayer is the owner of the Heritage Axe Company Ltd., Hudson, Iowa.



"PERFECT AXE - Patented Sept. 29th 1885
Made by Kelly Axe Mfg. Co. Louisville, Kentucky U.S.A."



THE LINCOLN AXE COMPANY of Dubuque, Iowa

Tool collectors are intrigued by the maker's stamps on tools. One of the most intriguing is that fine-etched design of the Lincoln axe originating in Dubuque, Iowa. The face of America's wood chopping president, Abraham Lincoln, is an added inducement to have one proudly in one's holding.

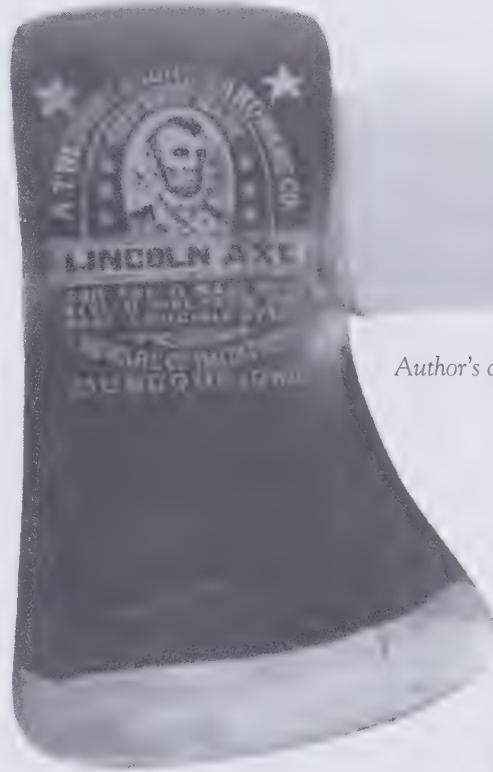
It is confusing to lay out the chronology until recently as this etching is found with three different company names. I have seen this axe with the company name of Schreiber, Conchare and Westphal. They were known to be in business from about 1890 to 1904, when they sold out to A. Tredways and Sons.

The Tredways, who were founded in 1853, were the earliest hardware jobbers in the Dubuque area. They commenced showing the "Lincoln" in their catalogue after their merger, with their name replacing Schreiber, Conchar and Westphal, about 1908. The company remained active until 1929 when there was a merger with Kretschmer Manufacturing Company to form the new Kretschmer-Tredway Company, also of Dubuque. The Kretschmer firm was originated by two brothers, Herbert C. and Fred N. in 1907. By diligent work and top service they built the largest wholesale business in the area.

The main building was a three story completely fire-proof structure, a real innovation for those days. It was completed in 1913 and served until 1954 when it was extended.

"H.C." retired in 1926 and Fred remained president until his death in 1936. His wife ran the company for ten years until another family member, Charles G. Kretschmer, was elected president.

Since their merger with Tredway in 1929, the Lincoln axe was a show piece of their line - when all such expensive etchings fell victim to the war economy.



Author's collection.

Throughout the history of this axe, from its patent date of June 2, 1896, it was manufactured by the Mann Edge Tool Company of Lewistown, Pennsylvania. This, then, is the explanation of the three different company names on the Lincoln axe. Some collectors are lucky enough to have all three versions to show.

Thanks to Greg Stayer, owner of Heritage Axe Company Ltd., Hudson, Iowa, for submitting this picture of his double bit Lincoln Axe.



"KRETSCHMER - TREDWAY CO.

The Best Made LINCOLN AXE

This axe is made with special care from the best crucible steel. Beware of imitations.

Dubuque, Iowa."

THE MACK AXE FACTORY of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania

This axe-making facility was founded by Joseph Graff at Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania in 1871, Mr. Graff sold out to the HUBBARD COMPANY of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania after bringing it to full production, in 1877.

Hubbard has one of the plants taken over by the American Axe & Tool Co. of Glassport in 1889. And it is well documented that the giant Trust, with 16 factories was in much trouble almost from the first. But it was not until 1912 that Hubbard withdrew and sold out to Kelly, who required all the heavy equipment for their burgeoning business in Charleston. Kelly immediately had rights to all Hubbard labels and patterns and continued to make and offer them to the trade.

It was at this point that John Mack, Sr. saw the potential of the Beaver Falls location, which he purchased and commenced to equip as a new factory. It was May of 1913 before he was in full swing, with a total of 135 men. They were well trained and Mr. Mack was an experienced business man so the MACK AXE was an excellent product. It is to be noted, that although John Mack was a relation of Rochester Mack Axe Co., there was no business connection.



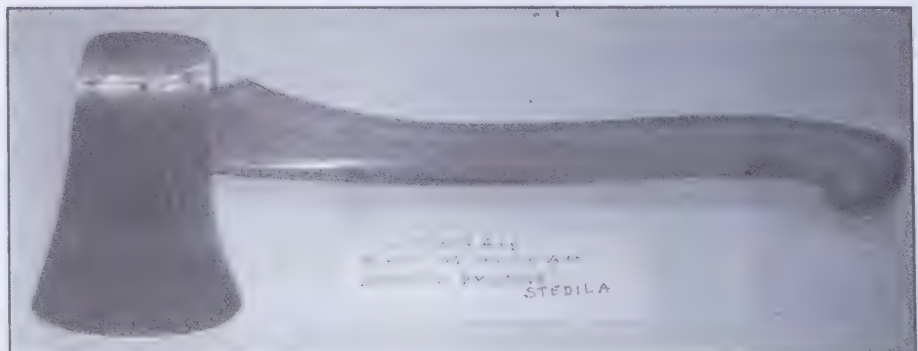
The Mack Family
John Sr., Pearl Bibbee & John Jr.

In 1920, the WINCHESTER COMPANY of New Haven was diversifying their gigantic munitions plant in an attempt to keep it operating, after the world war end left them high and dry of munitions contracts.

As part of their strategy they purchased the MACK company for \$200,000 cash. Little by little they moved the operation to New Haven, Connecticut, where most of the WINCHESTER AXES were manufactured. The famous SCRIPT LOGO, so much sought after now on all tools, was also stamped on their axes until they announced bankruptcy in 1930. (Also see WINCHESTER AXES) Winchester axes were an excellent product, as was their other label - BARNEY & BERRY, a high priced line of hatchets.



John Mack working at Mack Axe Works Co.



Axe Makers of North America • 46

PNEUMONIA CAUSES DEATH OF JOHN MACK

Beaver Falls Manufacturer
Passes Away in New
Brighton Home

ILL BUT SHORT TIME

Many Years With Local Axe
Works and Widely Known
in Industrial Circles

1/3/1931 B.F.R.
John Mack, one of the Beaver valley's leading manufacturers, for many years president and treasurer of the Mack Axe company, Beaver Falls, died Saturday morning at 4:05 o'clock at his home, 1617 Third avenue, New Brighton, from pneumonia. Mr. Mack was getting along nicely but a sudden turn for the worse came Friday and death soon followed.

John Mack was a son of Frank and Sarah Dunn Mack and was born in Jamestown, N. Y., October 21, 1866. His parents died when he was a child and he became a member of the family of John Mack. He attended school until he was 14 years of age, when he secured a position in a hotel at Buffalo, N. Y. He remained there three years, then entered the employ of the B. & C. Carpenter Axe company at Jamestown, where he remained for nine years, serving in all departments of the plant and becoming familiar with all details of the business. In 1890 he became affiliated with the American Axe & Tool company and came to the Beaver Falls plant in 1900. He was manager of the plant and a director of the company. In 1909 the plant was partially destroyed by fire and later Mr. Mack organized the Mack Axe company and purchased the Beaver Falls plant.

In politics Mr. Mack was always a Republican. He was a member of the B. P. O. Elks. He was also a member of St. Joseph Roman Catholic church in New Brighton. Surviving are his widow and three daughters and sons: Miss Julia Mack, Frank Mack, Mrs. Sara V. Hicks, Fred Mack and Miss Mary Mack.

The funeral services were held with requiem high mass in St. Joseph's church at 9:30 o'clock Tuesday morning. Burial in St. Joseph cemetery.

MANN EDGE TOOL CO. and Collins Axe

These two axe makers are, of course, among the most famous of American companies and axes with their names are still being made by the parent company, Mann Edge Tool Company, at their large and modern factory in Lewistown, Pennsylvania. Collins began making axes in 1823 in Hartford, moving to Collinsville a few years later. By the middle of the last century, the workforce numbered as high as 630. The Mann company purchased the entire Collins operation in 1966 and makes their patterns alongside their own, and those of the O.A. Norlund Company. This line is a "hobby, hunter, camping" line, featuring small HUDSON BAY axes and a SADDLE CRUISER double bit pattern. The latter is very popular in the forests and with surveyors for "blazing" trees.

E.Z. Sales and Manufacturing Co. - Gardena, California - now owns rights to the axe and hatchet patterns of O.A. Norlund Co., purchased from Mann Edgetool Co. in 1992.

Items now offered:

- AX#100-Voyager Hatchet, 14oz. with 11" curved hickory handle
- AX#200-Tomahawk, a Hudson Bay Pattern, 26" curved hickory handle
- AX#300-Canadienne Pattern, 2lb. with 24" curved hickory handle
- AX#400-Camper Axe, 2-1/2lb. with 24" straight hickory handle

The Mann company, on their letterhead, claims they were founded in 1843, but, as will be noted in Appendix 2, there have been so many "Mann" axe makers, it is not apparent which of these the parent company stems from. Suffice to say that they are still one of the few makers still operating in America and their axes can be purchased in every state.

ABERCROMBIE & FITCH AXE

(Note: Paul Taylor, of the New Jersey Office of Historic Sites, found this axe at a flea market. It is a probably an early 20th century axe, but has an older shape and method of manufacture. It has an iron blade with steel inserted as a bit. It is a medium camp-axe size. Abercrombie & Fitch are noted more for clothing than camp equipage.)

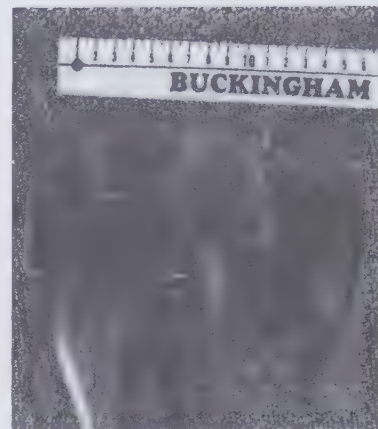
My interpretation is that Abercrombie & Fitch had very little to do with selling axes and hatchets. It is not new - I could find very little about similar situations - that is Canova Coffee Company, Buster Brown Shoes, Eddie Bauer Stores, etc. In my mind, these named axes and hatchets are in the category of promotional pieces, offered by companies that do not generally deal in tools, hardware, or axes.

This does not diminish the collectors value of these items. Actually, they are always made by proper manufacturing companies and are almost all of good quality, as is the case here.

In this case, I have traced the maker to the Mann Edge Tool Co. of Lewistown, Pennsylvania. Mann, owned by O.A. Norlund, and made a line of camping and recreational gear. Mann sold its line to E.Z. Sales of Gardena, California. I believe Mann still makes this axe for E.Z. Sales.

The pattern of this axe is called the Hudson's Bay and is taken from the Norlund axe - Mann just used the same dies to stamp out the basic shape before hand finishing and polishing.

I know of only three other makers that used the identical pattern - one, Collins Co.,



used the design after Mann purchased them in 1966; and the P.V. Manufacturing Co. of Brewer (Oakland), Maine; and Snow & Neally Co. of Bangor, Maine.

The "No. 986" stamped on the blade is most likely an Abercrombie & Fitch designation. The only alternatives would be a manufacturer's identification, which I have never seen before, or the buyers stamp. I have seen many buyers names stamped on their axes, but from my records, I cannot find a buyer's number stamped on an axe. I should say that this specific pattern was made in 1 lb. Norlund, 2 lb. Collins, 2.5 lb. Snow & Neally. The one in question appears to be a 3 lb. axe.

John French, of London, England, says he has seen Abercrombie & Fitch axes in the United Kingdom.

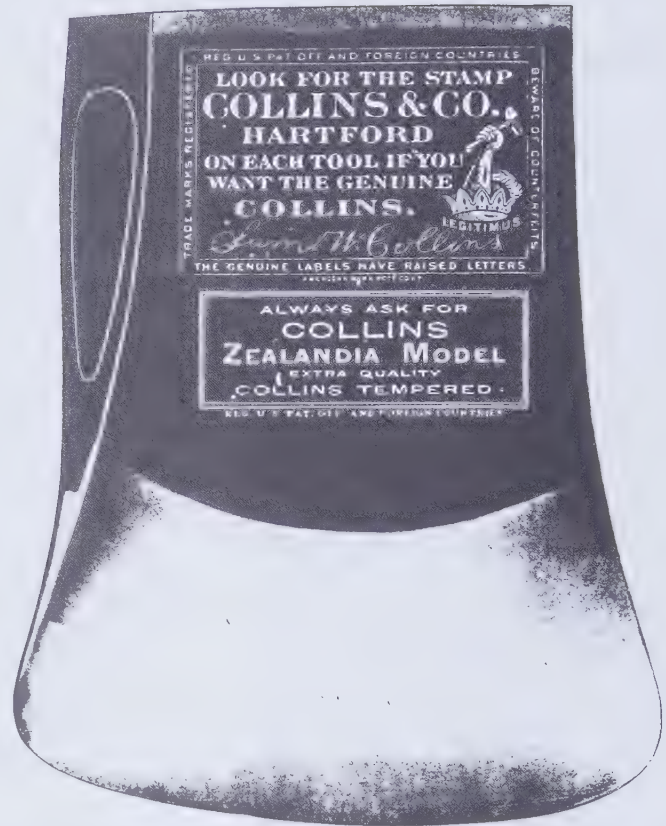
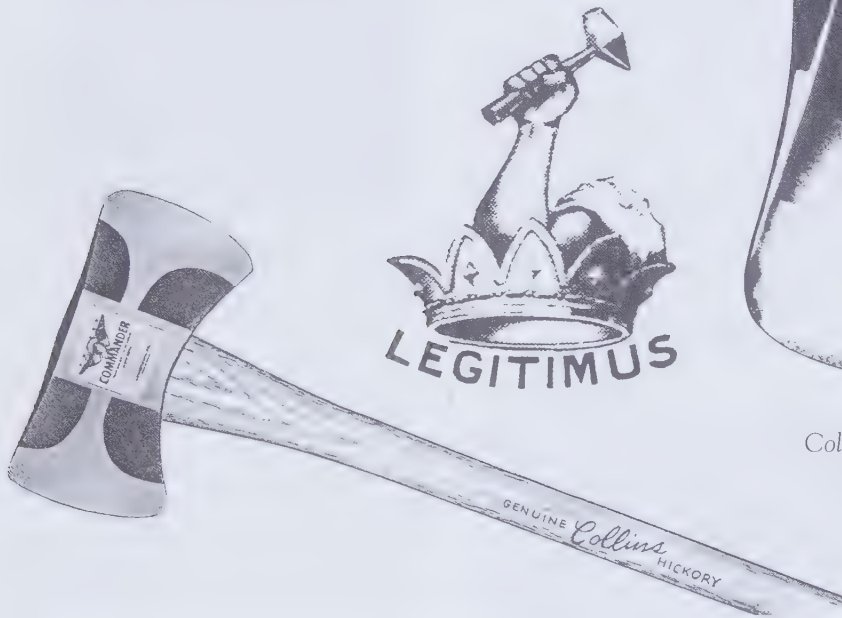


Collins & Company Axe Factory, Collinsville, Conn. 1859

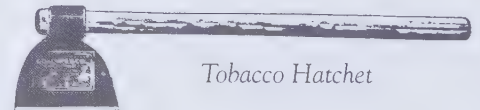




View of COLLINS & CO. FACTORY
first building 1826.



Collins Axes have Inserted Hand Forged Tool Steel



Tobacco Hatchet





How the Mann Family created an axe-making dynasty in the United States

For over 250 years the name has been synonymous with fine axes. This dynasty started when an Irish blacksmith, Thomas Mann, arrived in the U.S.A. in 1750. His first place of business was in Braintree, Massachusetts. Making axes was his specialty. It goes without saying that he knew how to make a superior axe. He started a family line that would carry the Mann name on quality axes right through the present day, one of the few exclusive makers left in America.

His sons and grandsons also became axe makers throughout New England, New York and Pennsylvania. In 1835, one grandson, William Mann, started the first axe factory at Reedsville, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania. Twenty years later, 1855, William's two sons, Robert and Thomas R., opened separate shops in Mill Hall, Pennsylvania.

It was in 1889 that American Axe & Tool Company (Troy, New York) persuaded 14 axe-making companies (with their 16 plants) to join together as a giant Trust, aiming to corner the axe market. Five of the makers joined were:

- William Mann, Jr. of Lewistown
- Thomas R. Mann of Mill Hall
- Robert Mann & Sons of Mill Hall
- J. Fearon Mann of Bellfonte, PA
- James N. Mann

The idea was in trouble from the very first. With 10,000 employees and such a diverse group of entrepreneurs, it was doomed. In 1892, Joseph R. Mann, who was the treasurer, pulled out and built his own factory at Lewistown. He called it the Mann Edge Tool Factory, by which it is still known.

In 1902, James H. Mann also resigned and started his new factory near Lewistown. In 1904, Joseph R. repurchased the two old plants from the trust, the Robert Mann & Sons and the Thos. R. Mann shop at Mill Hall. After he

modernized these, they became part of his Mann Edge Tool Co. For many years these operations were managed by two sons of Robert Mann: A.C. and William H. Mann.

This famous old conglomerate continued successfully for the next 62 years, until 1966 when they purchased the once huge axe-making facility of the Collins Company of Collinsville, Connecticut. This closed the famous old Collins plant, and all the equipment was moved to Lewistown. Both companies are still operated there, and the Manns also have another line of axes made in the same location, the O.A. Norlund Co., a line of hunting, camping and hobby axes.

When J.R. Mann left the Trust, it should be noted that all the Mann labels and trademarks were legally retained by American Axe & Tool Co. until 1921, when Kelly Axe & Tool Co. of Charleston, West Virginia bought all the assets of American Axe & Tool. Kelly moved all of the machinery to their new 200-acre site, making it the largest axe factory in the world. They also retained all rights to the Mann labels and patterns, and offered them right up to their closure in 1983.

Anyone who studies axes cannot help but be impressed by that wonderful old Mann name... known for 252 years in America, composed of many generations and over 50 descendants who spent their lives designing, making and selling the finest axes America has known.



MARBLE'S AXES

In 1998, America celebrated the 100th year since the introduction of an institution that will be remembered by at least three generations.

What a proud day it was when a young lad achieved his own MARBLE'S AXE. Webster L. Marble, of Gladstone, Michigan, had an idea that we were ready for a quality, finely finished small axe - a belt axe or hatchet, and he was right. His idea was so successful that he made and sold hundreds of thousands, advertised in almost every magazine of the era.

I can remember opening my own package, ordered through Popular Mechanics for \$4.75, and being blinded by the brilliant gleam. The hidden guard was also a thing of wonder. And, strangely, the product was a fine quality tool for a mail order item. It lasted me for many years until lost.

The World War finally caught up with the operation and it passed, as almost every axe factory has been doomed to do in the last 15 years. What a shame!

Today, specimens are much in demand, but hard to find. Most collectors do not realize the scope of Mr. Marble's product line.

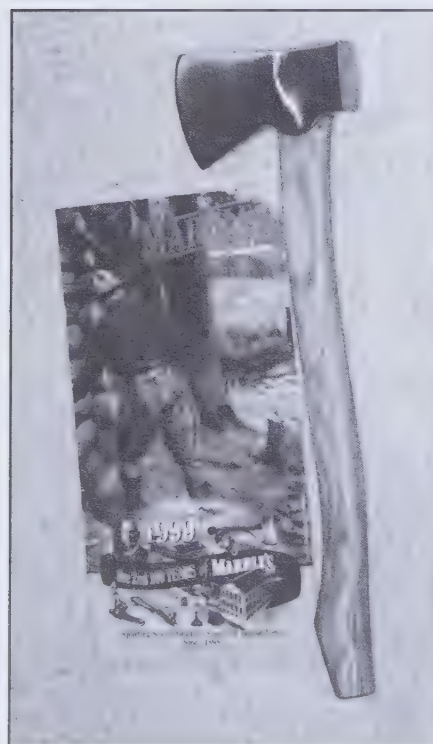
It is with some interest that a new corporation in 1999, purchased all rights to patterns and patents of the original company and now manufactures a number of the old axes and hatchets in Gladstone, Michigan.



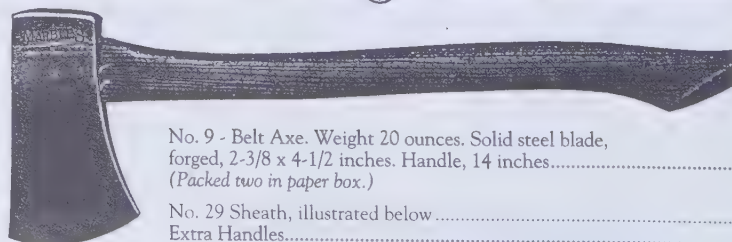
MARBLE ARMS & MANUFACTURING CO. ** Gladstone Michigan - COMPLETE AXE PROGRAM

	WEIGHT	HANDLE	DETAILS
No.1	16 oz.	10" Steel	With folding guard.
No.2	20 oz.	11" Steel	With folding guard.
No.2-1/2	20 oz.	11" Steel	With folding guard plus a retractable nail pull slot.
No.2P	20 oz.	11" Steel	With a folding guard plus a 3" prospectors pick.
No.3	27 oz.	12" Hard rubber	With folding guard.
No.4	20 oz.	12" Hickory	Solid steel blade, c/w guard.
No.5	16 oz.	11" Hickory	Solid steel blade, folding guard.
No.6	20 oz.	12" Hickory	Solid steel blade (soft steel) & folding guard.
No.7	14 oz.	11" Hickory	Solid steel blade (soft steel), no guard.
No.8	16 oz.	13" Solid tool steel	No guard.
No.9	24 oz.	14" Solid tool steel	No guard.
No.10*	2 lbs.	26" Wood	Camp axe.
No.11	2-1/4 lbs.	28" Wood	Camp axe.
No.12	3 lbs.	30" or 32" Wood	Camp axe.
No.13	3-1/2 lbs.	30" or 32" Wood	Camp axe.
No.14	3-1/2 lbs.	30" or 32" Wood	Camp axe, <u>double bit</u> .
No.15	2-1/2 lbs.	28" Hickory	Camp axe, <u>double bit</u> .

Sheaths were available for these at 75 cents each. Prices of the axes started at \$1.00 rising to \$5.00 by 1940. * No. 10 also featured a nail-pull slot, cleverly designed into the poll.



FOR EVERY HOUR IN THE OPEN



No. 9 - Belt Axe. Weight 20 ounces. Solid steel blade, forged, 2-3/8 x 4-1/2 inches. Handle, 14 inches.....\$1.50
(Packed two in paper box.)
No. 29 Sheath, illustrated below75
Extra Handles.....40
Very popular with Boy Scouts and campers, as well as sportsmen.



25th Anniversary of the Marble Safety Axe

The History of It's Development

Written by W.L. Marble in 1923

Our advertising manager has asked me for some information in regard to the development of the safety axe as a matter of possible interest to the readers of our "Message."

The first safety axe was made in 1893 and closed up like a jack knife; the handle being hinged about half way of its length. I made them by hand and sold about eighteen of the folding axes at \$5.00 each. They were a success as a novelty but lacked the rigidity of construction required for continued hard service, and were not as convenient to carry and use as the present style.

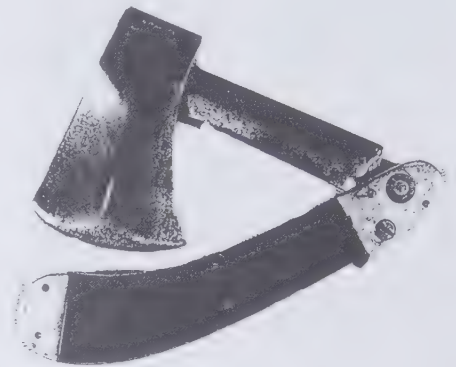
My next experiment in order to overcome the weakness of a jointed handle was the head and blade forged from one piece of steel, with a folding guard of hard fibre, and handle plates of the same material. So far as convenience and use were concerned they were a decided improvement over the folding handle model but would have been very expensive to manufacture, as a temper checked blade would cull the entire implement after being nearly completed. Proper tempering was our greatest problem - our losses in tempering sometimes running over 50 percent.

Manufacturing operations commenced in a very limited way in March, 1898, in a little shop in the rear of my residence. We started with the old No. 1 Model, in which semi-circular recesses were cut on opposite sides of the head, leaving a partition of 1/8 inch thickness between. The handle was slotted and shaped to fit the recesses and driven on to the head and held in place with a screw passing thru handle and head. After making many thousands of this construction we changed to the present style which enables us to finish head and handle separately and hundreds of thousands of the later models have been distributed to all parts of the world. The first safety axe made as a result of actual manufacturing operations was finished on the first day of September, 1898, and sold to Dr. Forsyth of Gladstone, Michigan, who happened into the shop and waited a few minutes for it to be completed. In February, 1899, having accumulated a stock of about 100 axes, I secured a space at the New York Sportsman's Show, held at Madison Square Garden, and personally conducted the exhibit. My neighbor in the adjoining booth was a gentleman by the

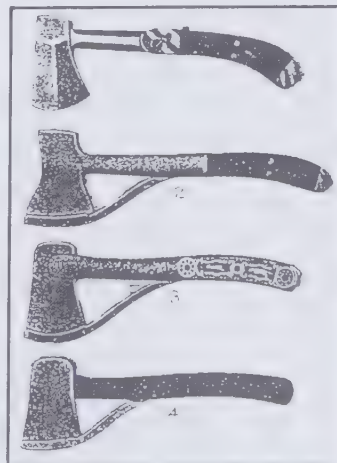
name of Bean from Boston, former mechanical expert for the John P. Lovell Arms Company, now the Iver Johnson Arms Company. After I had been at the show a few days I met Mr. Bean one morning looking very much as if he had put in a very bad night. He said to me, "Mr. Marble, I have lost an entire night's sleep on your account. After I went to bed last night I got to thinking about that confounded safety pocket axe of yours and I had made up my mind I was to beat it." (I was sure that if it could be done Bean could do it.) "After putting in an entirely sleepless night trying to devise some way of accomplishing the same purpose I frankly say to you that it cannot be done. You have the best, simplest and cheapest way for edge protection and convenience of handling and carrying. You need never lose any sleep about anyone improving on your method of construction."

Now, after 19 years it seems that Bean was right. Captain Robert E. Peary had a supply of our axes and knives on his last two trips to the Arctic. Captain George R. Comer, another famous arctic explorer, wrote us last winter that he found our axes in use by the Esquimos, and prized very highly by them, on his last trip to the polar regions. He wanted to arrange for a supply of them for his next trip. I venture to say that if you were to penetrate the heart of Africa or the depths of the Amazon forests you would also find Marble Safety Axes in use there. The entire utility and practicabil-

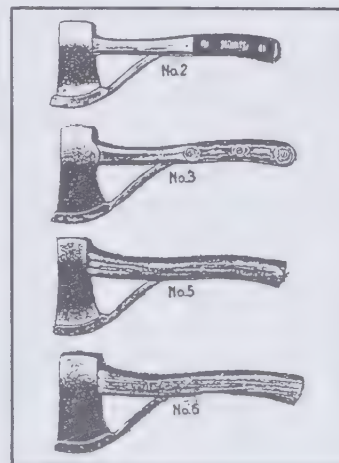
ity of these unique little axes have brought a great demand for them in all parts of the world - and the demand is constantly increasing. When the European muddle is finally and definitely straightened out, we expect to do a large export business on these axes as well as taking care of the rapidly growing domestic demand.



The above photo of Webster L. Marble's first axe that folds midway in handle is taken of one in a private collection. The owner has a certified document that it was a prototype made in 1893 by Marble and is described in his 1923 writeup of his 25th anniversary of the Marble Safety Axe. The 1893 prototype has stamped on the head "Gladstone Mfg. Co., Gladstone, Mich., Pat. Applied For."



Early Models of the Marble Safety Axe.



Present Models of the Marble Safety Axe.

MARSHALL-WELLS COMPANY

This wholesale and retail hardware corporation was a unique operation in that it had a sphere of influence solely over the western part of the continent.

By 1900, the giant framework was well in place: home office in the U.S.A. was Duluth, Minnesota, with large distribution centers in Portland and Spokane. Added to that was a northern office in Winnipeg, Manitoba, so the company supplied their own retail outlets, as well as affiliated franchise stores, across the entire half of the North American continent, from Mexico to Alaska.

As a direct result of their highly ethical policies and the high quality of the tools and materials they supplied, the company, for a long period of time, had no competitors in "their territory," both in Canada and the U.S.A.

As tool and axe collectors, the name of their "in house" labels will be remembered forever. ZENITH axes were sold as "highest quality available" and NORTHERN KING were retailed as a "high grade competitive line, ideal for the handyman."

The axes were made for Marshall-Wells by the best manufacturers on the continent - Kelly, Collins, True Temper and, in Canada, Welland Vale.

Prior to 1915, the company was known as Marshall-Wells Hardware Company. Afterwards the name was changed to simply Marshall-Wells Company.

The company had very high specifications for their axes. As a matter of fact, they had a very good testing department and all shipments received from the various factories were carefully inspected and a portion were chemically and work-tested. No wonder they grew so large and were so well respected.

In the U.S.A. the company was eventually sold to Gamble-Skogmo, of Minneapolis. When you see that wonderful label - ZENITH - you know you've got a good axe. There are a lot of gaps and overlaps in the dating of their labels and trademarks, but until these can be refined we will continue to rely on data gleaned primarily from Marshall-Wells catalogues.



PLUMB

This was another of America's greatest axe makers. But, because of so many changes in their corporate structure and moves from one factory to another, there is much confusion in establishing a true and detailed history upon which we may base further research.

From my original studies I have (and with reference to the good work of Dan Comerford of Long Island, New York) set down this basic list to which you may add any details which will help fill in the spaces.

This top tool, including edge tool, company was founded by Jonathan Yerkes in Frankford, Pennsylvania, in 1856. The main office and works were located adjacent to the Pennsylvania R.R., corner of Tucker and James streets. In 1869, the business having thrived, a new and larger factory was acquired in Philadelphia.

The company name became Yerkes & Plumb the next year, when Fayette R. Plumb became a partner, purchasing full control of the company in 1887. The company was, of course, called Fayette R. Plumb from that date.

Their 1888 catalogue boasts of branch offices in both New York and Boston, and shows picks, mattocks and grub hoes for the first time. Mr. Plumb explains he purchased the Old Washoe Tool Co. as facilities especially for making said tools. By this date, also, the company was featuring the "anchor" labels.



The company was incorporated in 1896. 1910 saw further expansion, in a move to larger and more modern facilities in St. Louis.

By 1960, the factory was again in Philadelphia, and in 1971 was sold to O. Ames & Co., "a McDonough company." But, as had happened to all other large axe makers, the time came in 1980 to be sold to a corporation which had a large number of other lines to balance distribution and advertising costs.

The new company is The Cooper Group. They built a brand new factory at Monroe, North Carolina, where they are now making the famous Plumb products, one of the few large axe makers still active in the U.S.A.

Some longtime labels used by Plumb are:

PLUMB'S QUAKER CITY
ANCHOR Brand
BLUE
BLACK BEAUTY
TUF TEMPER
REGAL



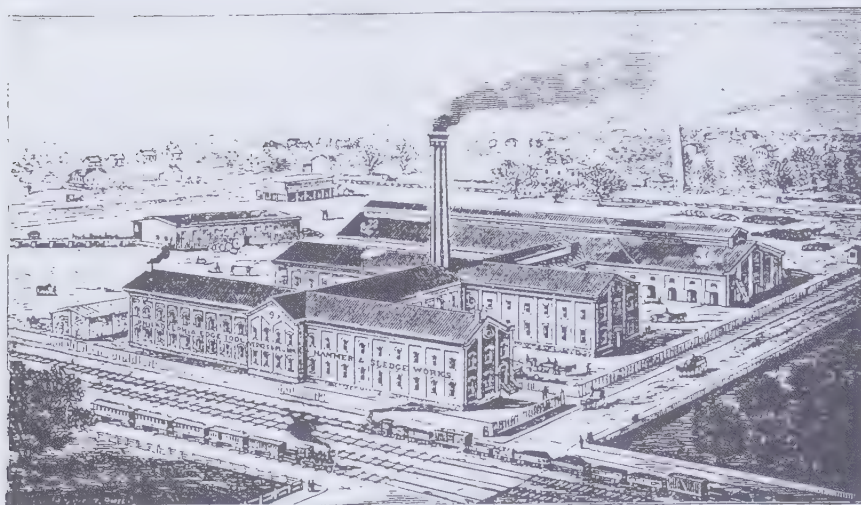
Lathing Hatchet (ca. 1889)



(ca. 1889)

THE FAMOUS "PLUMB" AXES

- 1856 The start of this 130 year story of one of America's top axe makers was in Germantown, PA, when Mr. Jonathan Yerkes commenced operation.
- 1869 Moved to larger factory in Philadelphia.
- 1870 Mr. Plumb becomes a partner, now known as Yerkes & Plumb.
- 1887 Mr. Plumb becomes sole owner and name changed to Fayette R. Plumb.
- 1897 Fayette R. Plumb Inc. name appears approximately this date.
- 1910 New plant and move to St. Louis.
- 1960 Moved back to Philadelphia.
- 1971 Plumb Co. taken over by O. Ames Co., a subsidiary of The McDonough Co.
- 1980 Company sold to The Cooper Group who now manufacture all Plumb Axes at the new plant, Monroe, NC.
- 1985 All Plumb Axes manufactured for them be Mann Edge Tool Co. of Lewiston, PA.
- 1998 The Cooper Group, Australian Branch, ordered "huge" number of axes from Hults Bruk Co. of Sweden. These are the popular Tasmanian Pattern - 4-1/2 lbs., with Plumb labels affixed at the factory.



MAIN OFFICE AND WORKS,

(from 1887 advertisement)

Amazing Chopping Records with the PLUMB AXE

An open challenge to the chopper who can chop through a log in 50% more time than it takes Peter McLaren using any other axe than a Plumb. McLaren uses only Plumb Axe.

A Few Records

At Blytheville, Mo.

Competitor cut a 13-inch gum log in 2 min. 30 sec. McLaren cut the same log in 47 seconds.

At Steele, Mo.

Competitor cut a log in 5 min. 40 sec. McLaren cut it in 1 min. 45 sec.



Peter McLaren, the greatest chopper of them all, never uses any axe but a Plumb.

At Booneville, Miss.

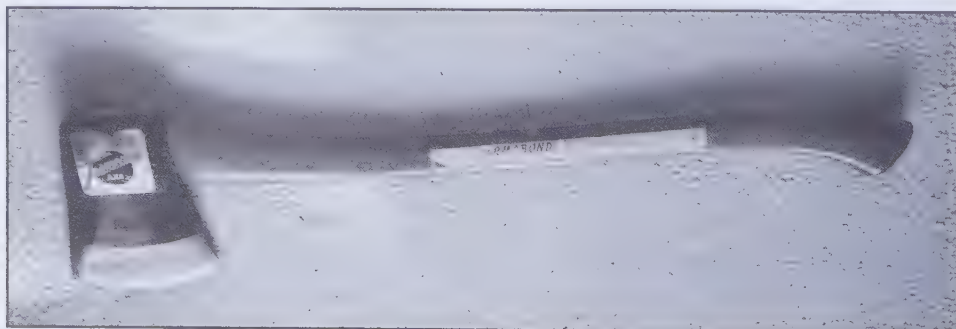
16-inch hickory log - Competitor's time - 7 min. 48 sec. McLaren's time - 2 min. 55 sec.

FAYETTE R. PLUMB, INC.
Philadelphia, U. S. A.



(1928 Plumb advertisement)

Both photographs are from the author's collection.



O.S. RIXFORD Manufacturing Company

Little has been written about this pioneer edge-toolmaker - one of the oldest (five generations) family manufacturers in the U.S.A.

Luther Rixford, in New Hampshire, was the founder in 1812. He specialized in scythes which became known all across the nation. In 1837 his son, "O.S." moved the operation to East Highgate, Franklin County, Vermont. He established the new name O.S. RIXFORD Manufacturing Co. He was also the man who deserves credit for widening their scope and introducing the axe to the product line in 1875. He publicly advertised that his axes cost more, but that he would not make or sell an inferior product to compete with the giant manufactories.

He is also credited with opening a branch factory in Montreal, Canada. This factory also featured the EBONY AXE - sold just as it came from the tempering pots with no additional painting or polishing. However, one could still order these hand-made axes bronzed or polished.

The axes of both factories were recognized to be top quality, and had a large, loyal following among those who would pay for a better axe.

I have seen references to a branch of the family who had moved to Canada as United Empire Loyalists in 1812 and settled in New Bedford, Quebec (near Montreal) and this may have been the motive for locating the operation in Montreal.

"O.S." was also the instigator of the Fair Trade policy of merchandising. He would only supply one retailer in an area, and he refused to supply jobbers who might then sell to any outlet they desired. This policy did a lot for the company, and built sales dramatically. He also designed and patented (April 1, 1884) the first individual axe carton

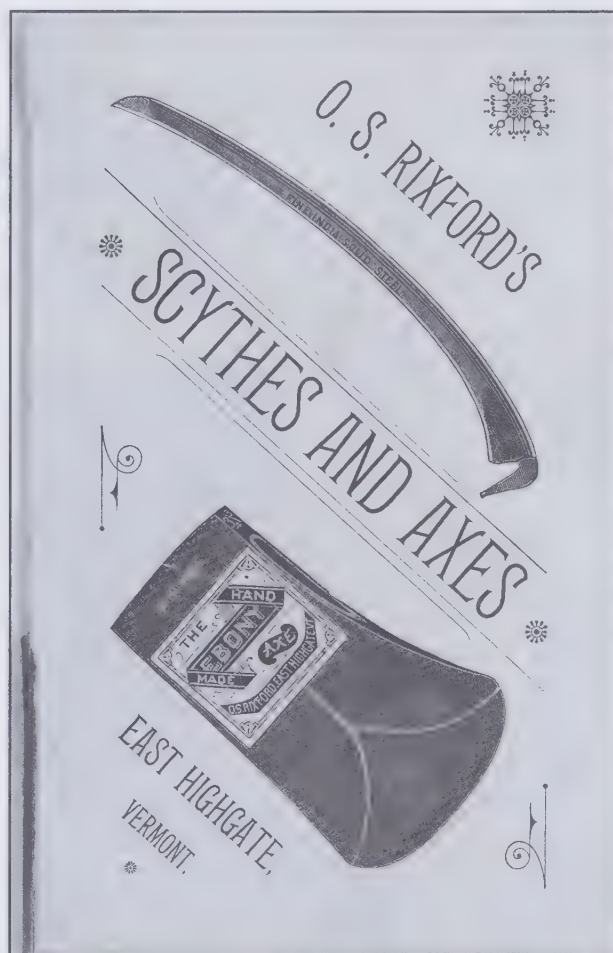
in the trade. This meant the buyer was sure his axe "was not handled by the public and was prevented from becoming "shop-worn." Of course, it can easily be imagined that many buyers went for this exclusivity.

It is too bad there is not more RIXFORD history available as it seems to me this was a very special axe maker and pioneer business. The famous Rixford Works closed in 1950.



MICHIGAN PATTERN
The Rixford "Ebony" Axe

An O.S. Rixford's catalog from 1887.



RKB ENTERPRISES

Another great American tradition in the hardware business, now called RKB ENTERPRISES INC., of Elmira, New York, with over 1200 customers in more than 14 states, started in 1864. It started as a two man retail partnership but has grown to a major Hardware Distribution business covering the Northeast corner of the U.S.A.

The original name in 1864 was ARYAULT & ROSE. The founders, Stephen Rose and his partner Myles Aryault purchased William Brown's store at 14 Lake Street in Elmira. Corporate changes through the years saw a number of different names reflecting the addition of "new blood" to the fast growing business. The founder's strict policy of putting quality and service first and satisfaction a guarantee is as important today as then.

In 1867 they became ARYAULT, ROSE & CO.

In 1872 they became BOOTH, DOUNCE & CO.

In 1875 they became BARKER, DOUNCE, ROSE & CO.

In 1888 they became BARKER, ROSE & CO.

In 1898 they became BARKER, ROSE, CLINTON & CO. this name lasting to 1928, already a proud 64 years old.

In 1928 new name: BARKER, ROSE & KIMBALL, INC. featuring their own BRANDS such as "CAYUGA," "SENECA" and the famous "OX-YOKE" label.

The company was always strong on axes and the "CAYUGA," "SENECA" and "OX-YOKE" designs were registered trademarks. Axe collectors are always seeking these acid embossed axes.

The seventh name change occurred in 1952 - ROSE, KIMBALL & BAXTER, INC. 1964 was celebrated as their 100th year. By this time they were in hardware innovations, introducing CARTON IDENTIFICATION & SCHEDULED order filling and shipping.

Five years later, the first computer, an NCR100 helped organize the giant volume of business passing through to maintain their Service & Quality policy. The final name change, to the present, RKB ENTERPRISES INC. came in 1976. This year also saw the introduction of their TELXON machines, to handle phone orders. The new Lake Street three story warehouse, with 3/4 mile long Drag Line was opened. But this yielded to a new system IBM3800-600 showing the company was positively growing.

Four generations of career hardware families have kept a sincere hand on the wheels of this fine American company. The KIMBALL, ROSE, and CRAVER

names of present day management are all third generation with the company. They have given hands-on leadership, protecting the original promise of satisfaction and service.

Over 300 employees cater to over 1200 active accounts, covering all northeast America. Their Branded Axes and tools can be found in all great collections. RKB is truly an American tradition.



ROMER LEGACY

During the "AXE AGE" (1850-1960) every man and boy had at least one axe and the logging industry depended on properly made, high quality axes. Many factories were operating, turning out these hand made axes, dependability being the key note of a successful axe. For over 60 year's, the name ROMER was a guarantee that if you bought an axe with this name, you were getting about the best made, long-lasting tool a woodsman could get.

Nicholas Romer was the dean of the Clan which included his own son Andrew Charles Romer. It all started when Nicholas was born in Denmark September 25, 1836. He came to the U.S.A. in 1860 and began making axes for the JEFFORD'S AXE COMPANY in Jamestown, New York. Later, he worked for the FRANCIS AXE CO. of Buffalo.

His younger brother John, joined him in starting their own axe factory at Gowanda, New York, in 1876. They were very successful and their GOWANDA axe was much sought after. They were also very active in community affairs and the Presbyterian church. This went on over 20 years until they sold their plant to the giant American Axe & Tool conglomerate in 1895.

They were not through with manufacturing yet, however. With Nicholas' son Andrew Charles, (past secretary of American Axe), they built a brand new axe factory, later that year, known as ROMER BROS., in Dunkirk, New York. Their best known labels were:

- UNCLE SAM'S BEST AXE
- THE ROMER AXE
- A.C. ROMER'S 1ST QUALITY AXE
- ROMER'S CROSS GROUND
- THE FAULTLESS AXE
- THE MONARCH AXE
- ROMER'S 1876 SPECIAL

The two brothers died very close to each other, Nicholas in January 1900 and John just eight months later.

Andrew C. became General Manager and ran a very good operation until he sold out in 1916 to WARREN AXE of Pennsylvania. The new owners kept it operating as a subsidiary for a number of years, when it was incorporated with the home plant. But in 1926 the famous a Old Romer Company burned to the ground, ending an era.

The Romer Family was well-known and greatly respected; active in church and local affairs both in Gowanda and in Dunkirk. They were members of the Masonic Order and the I.O.O. Fellows. Nicholas had three children but John was a bachelor. They led exemplary lives and were important cogs in the wheels of axe and edge-tool making in America. We have pictures of their axe labels, but wouldn't it be great to have an original example of the fine product with the paper label still there?



"Rockaway" Pattern

A. C. ROMER'S Brand

First Quality

Natural Black, Bright Edge

This finish furnished in all standard patterns and weights either single bit or double bits.

SCHWABACHER'S

Seattle's Great Hardware Company

Each city or area had one dominant company which served the trading area, state or even group of states. In Seattle, it is easy to pick the GREAT one - Schwabacher's, because it was there from the first, founded 1859 at Walla Walla, before moving to Seattle, Washington, as a general store, by three brothers - Abraham, Louis, and Sigmund.

The boys had been brought to San Francisco from Germany in 1850. Searching for a location, they heard about the "booming" Northwest and its logging, fishing, mining, as well as similar potential in Alaska and Idaho. So it was that they started what was to last 125 years - a general store to serve all aspects of the community needs, and a wholesale outlet to compliment the operation.

By 1869 (Washington did not achieve statehood for another 20 years) they had moved the operation to Seattle, anticipating the town of 1000 residents would grow quickly to the "jewel" of the Northwest Pacific coast.

Their famous brick building was the first such built, at 1st Avenue and Yesler Way. The company catered food products, house furnishings, hardware of every kind, paints, horse and wagon supplies and of course, logging and mining equipment.

In 1886, the logging supply business was incorporated as a separate entity. It continued to grow and dominate their aspect of the hardware business on the West coast. Soon they were forced to put up a giant new building at First and Jackson in 1906, staffed by up to 200 employees.

Members of the families involved were most respected businessmen, named "distinguished citizens" and one of them, Bailey Gatzert, was mayor of Seattle in 1873.

In their axe and logging lines, they had a number of famous "in house" labels - COLONIAL, OLD FAITHFUL and TYEE (Indian Chief logo). In addition, this huge company supplied axes from every manufacturer in America.

Their's was a great story - over 125 years of unequalled service and respect - a wonderful record in American hardware circles.



(ca. 1930)

SCHWABACHER

MINERS' AXE



(ca. 1918)
Yankee Pattern



(ca. 1937)

"CEDAR" PATTERN
ANTI-RUST—FEATHER EDGE

Schwabacher Bros. & Co.

(from 1886 sales receipt)

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO.

When studying and collecting axes, we do not always connect this giant retailer with the manufacture of axes.

The "moving finger" behind this great American institution was Richard W. Sears who started the company, in partnership with Alva C. Roebuck in 1887, in Chicago. The name Sears, Roebuck & Co., Inc. was adopted in 1893. By 1900, they were selling hundreds of thousands of axes which were supplied to them by many makers. Sears saw the wisdom of having his own factory, as it was becoming his policy of supplying the public "direct from the manufacturer."

Over the next eight years, they had started a number of their own plants: the Safe plant at Newark, Ohio, the Plumbing Goods factory in Wisconsin, the Upholstered factory in Chicago, the Organ factory in Louisville, the Vehicle & Farm plants at Evansville, Ind., a Cream-Separator factory in Iowa, the Wallpaper mill in Chicago, the Wire Fence mill in Indiana, the Paint factory in Chicago, the Sears Stove factory in Newark, Ohio, the Camera plant in Chicago, a huge Furniture factory at Binghampton, New York, the Saw factory in Michigan, the Arms plant in Meridian, Connecticut, a new Shoe factory at Littleton, New Hampshire and then, the Fulton Axe factory at Chicago.

Excellent axes were made in a number of grades. The top quality line, handmade, was the VILLAGE FORGE axe, but they also had FULTON SPECIALS, LUMBERJACK and MERIT labels.

It was not until the 1930's that Sears brought out the DUNLAP axe, which was another "standard" line, 4-SQUARE axes, and it's most famous tools - CRAFTSMAN!

All these years, however, the national chain offered many other manufacturer's lines too - Sager, Kelly and others. They were proud to state, in their 1908 catalogue (#117) they sold over 100,000 Fulton axes in 1907, more than any other two brands combined.

As many know, Sears has been famous for selling the highest quality tools, some guaranteed fully for the life of the owner.

In the long list of axe retailers, Sears has a special spot, because they were makers, but also offered a wide choice of America's best axes from other sources. It was nice to walk into a Sears store, in years past, and see such large and diverse axe displays.



(ca. 1908)



- Michigan pattern forged steel heads; properly tempered and hardened.
- Highly tempered tool steel bits—cut easy—stay sharp—long lasting.
- Select straight grained oval white hickory handle; wedge locked into eye.
- Perfectly balanced by master axe makers; gives you an easy, tireless swing.

(ca. 1928)



STANLEY
Household Hand Axe
(ca. 1935)



E.C. SIMMONS HARDWARE and SHAPLEIGH HARDWARE

Truth is strange! Why should two of America's largest and best hardware operations come from the same city? But there it is - E.C. Simmons Hardware and Shapleigh Hardware both started in St. Louis, Missouri, and both grew to be among the top four in America before finally merging. The older business was opened by A.F. Shapleigh in 1843 and remained tops for almost 110 years. The featured trademark was the famous "Diamond" with "Diamond Edge" logo. Except for Simmons' famous KEEN KUTTER crest, it is probably the best known and most sought after by axe and tool collectors.

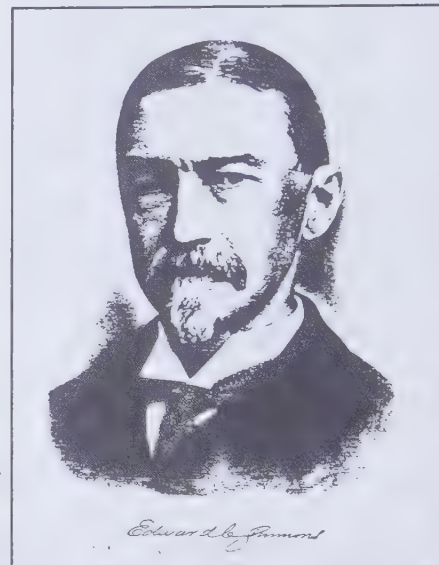
By 1905, they occupied 1,000,000 square feet in St. Louis; 150,000 in Minneapolis; 150,000 in Sioux City; 100,000 in Toledo; 100,000 in Wichita and 26,000 square feet in New York City. This was over 1,500,000 square feet of floor space, some of it with ceilings 20 feet high.

Think of the logistics in an age before computers. Yet, it was commonly boasted they could fill a diverse order, from a number of warehouses, and ship it in three days!

In 1901, a man who had worked for the rival Simmons firm for over 20 years, Norvel Saunders, took the chance to purchase the business and for 10 years the name became Norvel-Shapleigh Hardware Co. This reverted to Shapleigh Hardware Co. upon his retirement in 1911. Their 1923 catalogue featured 60 pages of axes - DIAMOND EDGE being the top quality line, BRIDGE TOOLS as the standard line, and the MOUND CITY line, which were "good axes sold with no guarantee."

The Simmons Co. started in 1869. "E.C." was a dynamic businessman and hard-working innovator. He personally designed the grand KEEN KUTTER logo. His 1905 catalogue was 4,850 pages in length, containing 50 pages of axes to choose from. He died in 1920 and his

sons merged with Winchester, in 1922, for seven years. Simmons' influence was felt over a trading area of 19 states and there was a high spirit of competition between the two giants of the hardware trade. With mounting competition from Marshall-Wells, and the suspicion of war on the horizon, a merger was arranged in 1940 and business was carried on under the Shapleigh name. There was still about 16 years of life left for this huge, wonderful and historic hardware corporation - a true American legend.





SNOW & NEALLEY

For almost 125 years, the Snow & Nealley Company, located at Bangor, Maine, have been making a wide range of tools, but specializing in the tools of the forest industry. Situated in the heart of the East Coast forest, it was just natural that they prized the axe as their primary product - and it made them famous.

Since 1864, anyone using an axe couldn't help but come to know of the Snow & Nealley name.

Today, the 40 workers of the factory carrying on the high tradition know that top quality cannot be compromised. Rather than change the way they make their axes, they have improved equipment, routines and techniques, and are proud to offer the same quality they have been known for, for a century and a quarter.

Essentially, the axes are handmade, in the same patterns and finish offered throughout the years. Some of the men have been with the company for 40 years.

The axes, in maintaining that "handmade" look, have not come down in price, but when you want a great axe, you know where to look.

In order to stay competitive, new hand tools have been added to broaden the line. In addition to the full line of axes and hatchets, they offer a wide selection of garden, wood-working and logging tools.

Their broadaxe, OUR BEST #030, chisel ground, with off-set 28" hickory handle was probably the only such made in the U.S.A.



(ca. 1980's, but same label design used since the 1940's at least.)

THE FAMOUS SPILLER AXE FAMILY

Spiller axes were made and found all over the east coast of Canada and the U.S.A. for at least six generations, spanning over 154 years.

It all began when Samuel Spiller, of Meredith, New Hampshire, became an apprentice blacksmith in Palermo, Maine in 1813. He could not know that a century and a half later his great, great grandson would be making beautiful, quality hand-made axes still proudly featuring the SPILLER brand.

In 1815, Sam's family moved to St. John, New Brunswick where he worked for James Wood, the first EDGE TOOL MAKER in St. John. Four years later he was making axes and other tools for the RICHARD LAWRENCE SHIPYARD. Not for long, however, as the record shows he opened his own shop in 1820 to make his respected axes and tools.

It was not many years for Spiller's fame to become widespread and in 1850 he introduced steam power to keep up with the demand. He won many awards and medals through the years and when he died in 1867, after 54 years at his trade, the business passed to his three sons - George S., Charles S., and Hanford B. They changed the name to SPILLER BROTHERS but continued the "outstanding reputation for quality axes, including POND, SCANTLING, SHIP'S, CARPENTER'S, HAND, NARROW, BROAD and CHOPPING AXES."

One of the brothers had a son, Mark Dole Spiller, who had commenced his apprenticeship in 1866 at the age of 14. This son married Laura M. Farnham on August 13, 1879, and the next year they moved to Oakland, Maine. In 1902 he was engaged by EMERSON & STEVENS to make axes, specializing in tempering the all hand hammered, hand-made tools. Emerson & Stevens was an old line company and their axes were justly sought and respected all over New England.



1937 Oakland, Maine. MARK D. SPILLER AXE CO.
Left, Mark Dole Spiller owner, 85 years. Right, Norman W. Spiller (son).
Harold F. (grandson) not in picture.

Mr. & Mrs. Spiller had three sons and four daughters. Their eldest son, Norman W., also became an axe maker. When Mrs. Spiller died in 1926, Mr. Spiller moved into his son's home. He had always wanted his own shop since the early days in New Brunswick and this seemed the right time to take the step.

He and Norman secured land on the Messalonskee River, better known as "Emerson's Stream." Here they

erected the new factory known as M.D. SPILLER & SON. CO.

Norman, 36 years old at this time, was also by now a top axe maker and they formed an excellent team. They soon built up a very successful business.

By 1937 the name had changed SPILLER AXE & TOOL CO. INC. with 10 full time employees making 60 dozen axes per week. By this time, too, a sixth generation of the family was work-

ing in the plant - Norman's son, Harold F., who was 19 years of age and considered an excellent axe maker. The elder Mark Spiller was doing the tempering and hardening exclusively, at which he was a master. He was 85 and prided himself on having lost only a few days in 70 years working. The company, under the two remaining SPILLERS continued in business until 1965.

This would add up to 153 years of SPILLER AXES - some record! And the product obviously was tops to remain on the competitive axe market for over a century and a half. This is a record unequalled in the history of axe-making. Other families have been involved with the industry for long periods, but not in the basic forging and tempering as was this unique, grand family of axe makers.

There are lots of SPILLER AXES still around in collections, but one seldom sees them offered in sales.

Mark died December 9, 1945, age 93 years, 10 months.

In the period when three generations of Spillers worked the Oakland factory, some of the labels used were:

- Maine Easy Cut
- Choppers' Choice
- Raxor Edge
- Spiller's Special
- Premier
- Victory Axe



VAUGHAN & BUSHNELL MFG. CO.

This famous old company which has made axes, hatchets, and striking tools for 120 years, was founded by Alexander Vaughan, who received his first patent in 1869. He started in a modest back-room shop in Chicago, Illinois. Growing quickly, as a result of the quality products offered, the company became a victim of the "Great Chicago Fire." This necessitated forming a partnership with the Bushnell family, who were basically hardware retailers - a good move!

In 1882, the company was incorporated as Vaughan & Bushnell Mfg. Co., located at 108 West Randolph Street. In tune with the times, some items were dropped from the line and others developed - a policy which has always been followed through the years - eventually specializing in hammers, axes and striking tools.

Sanford S. Vaughan, the founder's only son, joined the company in 1887, about the time a new and larger plant was opened in Chicago. He took over full management in 1905 and served until his death in 1951, after working with the company an amazing 64 years. He was the dynamic genius; re-designing and improving the entire line. He was also in charge when the Vaughans purchased all Bushnell shares in the company, making them sole owners in 1922 and he introduced his son, Howard Sr., into the company the same year.

With wonderful products, fast growing business and the usual foresight of the Vaughans, a new, larger and modern factory was constructed in the nearby town of Bushnell. (Just coincidentally the same name as their former partners.) This facility became the main factory.

The president now is Howard Vaughan, Jr. - fourth generation of a grand family, determined to maintain their high ideals and superior tools.

The head office, including a small manufacturing plant and warehouse, was set up in 1963 in Hebron, Illinois. Of course, there have always been offices maintained in downtown Chicago.

The big story, however, is the line of products this special, old tool making firm continues to offer. Tops are the hammers, axes, striking tools, etc. - all perfectly made and beautifully finished, continuing the beliefs of the founder who said "a tool's appearance is just as important as its performance."

All this will be guarded, we hope, for many years to come, as the company looks forward to having a fifth generation of the Vaughan family join the firm to carry on the long tradition of quality and service.

VAUGHAN

"SUB-ZERO®" AXES

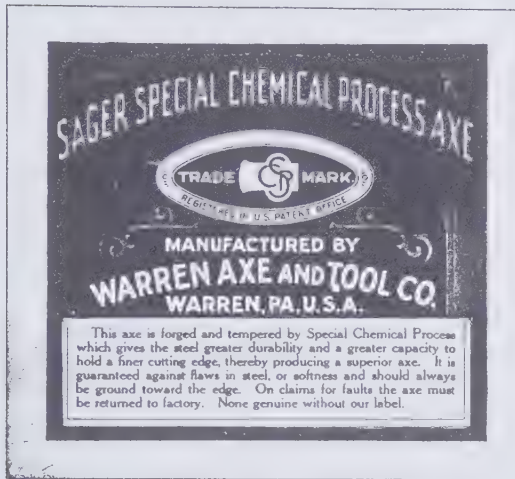


WARREN AXE & TOOL CO.

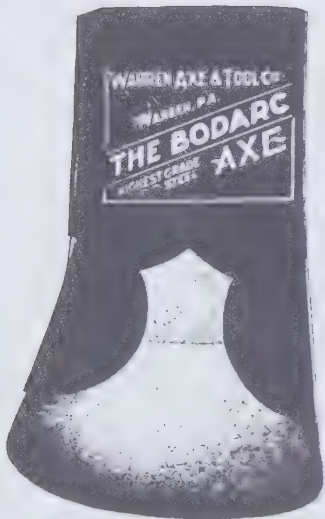
Founded in 1897 at Warren, Pennsylvania, this company featured a whole line of forestry tools and some of the finest axes ever made, featuring the famous Sager "CHEMICAL PROCESS" axes. In 1912, to keep up to the demand for this axe in Canada, they opened a new factory in St. Catharines, Ontario.

Other lines of axes made and sold were:

WARREN
BODARC
FOREST KING
HIAWATHA
OLD FAITHFUL
LAKE CITY
ROMER
MATCHLESS
BEST
UNCLE SAM'S
SOLID SILVER STEEL
(Fully Polished)



"Michigan" or "Crown" pattern



"Western Crown" pattern
Red Poll, Blue Bevel



"Michigan" pattern
Black Anti-rust Finish



"Western" pattern
Full Polished, Blue Bevels



"Cedar" pattern
Anti-rust, Feather Edge



"Michigan" pattern



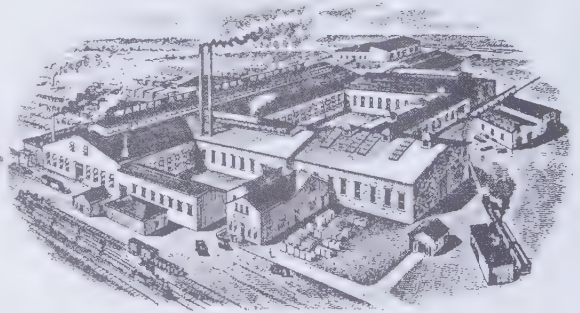
"Yankee" pattern



WARREN -
AXE AND TOOL CO.
MANUFACTURERS OF
SUPERIOR QUALITY
AXES AND TOOLS.

E. E. ALLEN, PRES.
H. P. STONE, GEN. MGR. & TREAS.
W. A. KINNAR, SECY.
D. W. MURPHY, SUPT.

FREIGHT OFFICE, STRUTHERS, PA.
EXPRESS OFFICE, WARREN, PA.



Capacity / 50,000 Axes Monthly



"Michigan" pattern
Black, Bright Edge



"Dayton" pattern



"Baltimore Kentucky" pattern
Blue or Gold Poll

The Sager Story

The Warren Axe & Tool Company of Warren, Pennsylvania, is probably best known for its famous "Sager Special Chemical Process Axe." This tempering process was patented in 1895 by William J. Sager who founded the Warren Axe & Tool Company.

William J. Sager was a Civil War veteran who served in the Fifth New York Heavy Artillery from 1864-1865. In his obituary, it was said he started his axe making career in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and had worked in axe and tool factories in a number of principal cities in the east. He may have lived in Clyde, Ohio, near Sandusky, in 1866, because one son was born there in that year. By 1875, another son was born in Yeagertown, Pennsylvania, which is near Lewistown. Could Sager have worked for one of the Mann axe makers of that area?

In 1893, Sager at the age of 57, his wife Sarah, and at least three sons Frank, W. Ross, and Martin Luther, all of whom were listed as axe makers with their father, moved to Warren, Pennsylvania.

The Warren Axe & Tool Company was incorporated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania December 27, 1893 with W.J. Sager, M.T. Christopher, (a son-in-law of W.J.), and W.D. Dana as principal stockholders. Sager's and Christopher's shares of the capital stock of the Company were paid in full in consideration of the following property: one steam hammer; eight tons of grindstones; one steam boiler; and 21,728 pounds of metal.

The company began with high hopes, and an experienced staff of axemen to which was soon added a promising product, the Chemical Process Axe. However it is clear that, though well equipped with basic manufacturing know-how, the Sagers did not have the management experience or promotional skills that were becoming increasingly necessary in the highly competitive world of axe making. Frank Sager moved

to Jamestown, New York, possibly to work for Jamestown Axe Company, a branch of the American Axe Company and Martin Luther Sager had moved to Buffalo, New York. Both W.J. and Ross were associated with Warren Axe & Tool Company until their deaths. W.J. died in 1914 and Ross in 1943 Neither had played an active role in the management after 1900.

By 1899 the company had fallen on hard times. On April Fool's Day in 1899 the remaining Sagers proved they were not fools. Recognizing that a good product was not enough, the Sagers hired 30 year old Herbert P. Stone as General Manager and Treasurer. He found that the Company's capital was entirely inadequate as were also its manufacturing facilities. After calls on the trade, it was unfortunately found there were no friends for its product due to uneven quality and unpopular shapes.

Stone set about to remedy matters but the company's problems were not over. In 1900 the plant was destroyed by fire, an all too common disaster in those days of wooden construction and few safety standards. The all-important question was: Should they rebuild? Stone thought they should.

Although the Company's original capital of \$25,000 had shrunk in value to \$6,250, Stone had faith that if they could raise an additional \$12,500 by selling \$50,000 par value of the Company's capital at \$.25 on the dollar (the then ration value), it would at least enable the Company to rebuild and get a fresh start. This was accomplished. A new building (60 ft. by 150 ft.) was erected and was used as an axe forge and grinding room for the next 50 years. The fire did not seriously damage the heavy ma-



chinery and the axes that were burned were retempered and finished and sold as seconds. These sales along with insurance money received, enabled the Company to continue.

Mr. Stone started on a selling trip, got as far as Wilmington, Delaware, and was told by a dealer that his samples were fine, but the demand was for a certain other manufacturer's brand and that even if his product could be bought at a much lower price, they would not be interested. The results of other interviews were similar. Mr. Stone concluded therefore, that it was either close up shop or else hire the best axe superintendent that knew how to make good axes.

Accordingly, Mr. D.W. Murphy, Superintendent of the Jamestown factory of American Axe & Tool Company, was engaged as Superintendent of the Warren factory. His practical axe making experience resulted in adopting the latest and best manufacturing methods. Murphy was to continue as Plant Superintendent until his death, when his son, W.J. Murphy succeeded him and continued as Superintendent through the 1940's.

The next problem was to introduce the now consistently high quality Sager product to every prominent logging camp in the United States and Canada to demonstrate the superiority of its product. Demonstrators were hired, one of whom



was the celebrated Horace Rounds and after several years of repeated trips to camps, a demand was created for the Sager chemical process axe, the highest grade and highest priced axe on the market. It became the axe demanded by skilled woodsmen from Maine to California and in all principal logging camps.

For several years, the two biggest axe companies engaged in a price war, rendering prices below cost of manufacture. In 1904, it was decided to create and manufacture labor-saving logging tools in addition to axes. This was a long process, perfecting the tools and endeavoring to improve on them. On one (the log grab), Warren Axe obtained a patent, but was soon sued for \$20,000 for infringement, but after carrying the suit to the Supreme Court, it was decided that they held a valid patent on their opponent's log grab whose patent was invalid. The profits on log grabs long since exceeded the cost of their defense. Their grabs and other specialties became the most complete logging tool line on the market, and was known as the "Bull Dog" line.

About 1912, Stone bought the American Drop Forge Company of Wayland, New York, and moved their machinery to Warren. This gave Warren drop forging hammers and equipment with which to make logging tools to advantage and they became a very profitable part of their business. A three-story handle factory was built during the First World War with a capacity of two thousand handles daily. The Standard Axe & Tool Works, Ridgeway, Pennsylvania, was acquired and moved to St. Catharines, Ontario, in 1912, where a site of several acres was obtained and a modern, brick factory building was erected. The "Canadian Warren Axe & Tool Company" was founded with H.P. Stone as President. Shortly after building, they merged with Canadian Logging Tool Company (the largest in Canada). Later, in 1928 they took over the Thomas Pink & Sons Company of

Pembroke, Ontario, and housed all in the St. Catharines factory, changing the Company's name to "Canadian Warren-Pink, Ltd." They also built a warehouse at Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Warren Axe & Tool Company, of Warren, Pennsylvania, was reorganized in 1920 after selling the business for \$600,000 to the so-called DILLON interests. H.W. Conarro was made General Manager and Mr. Herbert P. Stone was made President after serving 21 years as General Manager and Treasurer. He was to spend 31 years as President.

In 1916, the Company also acquired the Romer Axe plant of Dunkirk, New York. This facility operated, for several years until it was destroyed by fire in the 1930's.

In 1935, the Company employed 150-200 men in Warren and had a capacity of 9,000 axes and tools per day.

Warren Axe & Tool Company's exhibits were awarded highest honors at both the Panama-Pacific International Exposition and the Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition.

In addition to axes of every known pattern and finish including the famous "Sager Chemical Axe," the Company manufactured peavies, line hooks, cant hooks, chain grabs and slip hooks, cornerbird hooks, mill hooks, loading hooks, swamp hooks, grapple hooks, swivel round and grab hooks, hookaroons, pike poles, timber carriers, log grabs, logging dogs, chain dogs, rafting dogs, bark spuds, saw handles, saw wedges, forged swivels, skidding tongs, choker hoods, swivels, four-paw grabs, crotch grabs, carting grabs, trailers, grab mauls, grab skippers, axe, canthook and peavy handles, cold shuts, connecting links and numerous other logging tools. The other axe lines were "Warren," and "Old Faithful." The backbone of the line was, of course, the Sager axe.

Warren Axe & Tool products were shipped all over the world and to every

state in the Union, with the principal demand coming from the big timber sections of the South and Pacific Coast.

In 1950, Collins Company of Collinsville, Connecticut, purchased Warren Axe & Tool. The Warren plant was used until 1958 when all property and equipment were sold. Collins retained all rights to names and patterns, however, and continued to make Sager axes in their home factory for about 10 years. No Warren Axe & Tool Company buildings remain in Warren today. Those in the know have said that H.P. Stone, determined, knowledgeable and capable, who served his company for 52 years was the man credited with Warren's great success. But the basic truth is that without William J. Sager's fabulous invention, none of it would have been possible. W.J. Sager's Chemical Process Axe patent which was the true hero!

The Announcement of the NEW “Sager Special Chemical Process Axe”

Highest Grade Sager Patent Axes

CHEMICAL TREATMENT OF STEEL

Taken from the Northeastern Lumberman's Journal, issued May 20, 1893

An improved method of treating steel used for forging axes and other edged tools, which increases the wearing qualities of these tools at least one hundred percent, has been adopted by the Warren Axe & Tool Company, Warren, Pennsylvania. It is not a difficult matter to make tools of sufficient hardness, but the great trouble heretofore, with ordinary methods in use, has been in combining toughness with hardness. The Superintendent of that company has made a careful study of this subject during thirty-five years experience as a practical worker in steel, and has at last succeeded in overcoming this difficulty by

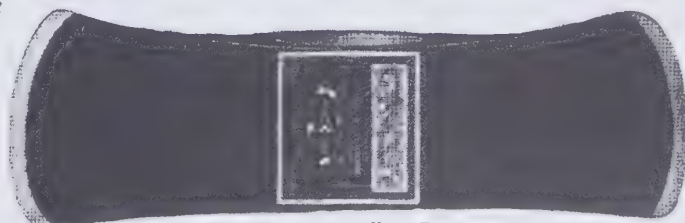
the discovery of a chemical process for the treatment of steel while being forged. This process is being used exclusively by the Warren Axe & Tool Company. It produces combined toughness and hardness, greatly improving the durability and quality of the tool produced. The axe made by the Warren Axe & Tool Company under this chemical process will be known as the “Sager Special Chemical Process Axe.”



California Reversible



Swamping Pattern



Narrow Falling Pattern



The Warren Axe Company, 1934.

These were the hammer forges, weighing several tons, run by the large fly wheel for stamping the shape of the axe.

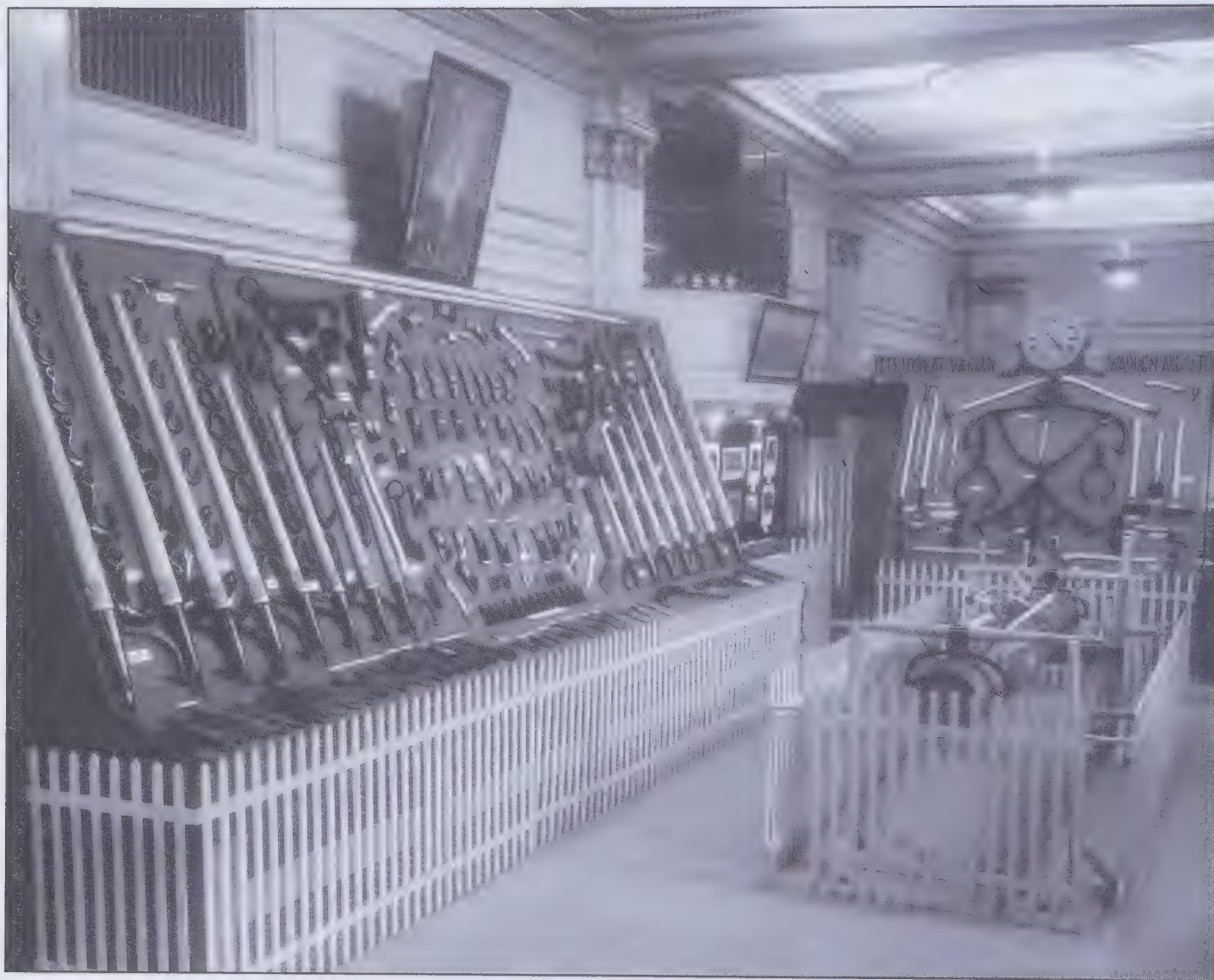
- Borg Studio Photos from the Allan Klenman Collections.



The Warren Axe Company, 1934.

This information was taken out of the research files of Allan Klenman and was written about the White axe factory in Honesdale, Pennsylvania. I'm sure the working conditions were quite similar to the Sager factory. "The wall behind the office buildings, which is made up of worn-out and broken grindstones used in the polishing of the axes. Emerson says that no less than 1200 tons of grindstones worth about \$30,000 were consumed annually, and he comments on the silicosis disease which led to the early death of every person who worked in the grinding department." Note the lack of protective eye and ear gear as well as no protective breathing apparatus.

- Borg Studio Photos from the Allan Klenman Collections.



Display at Warren National Bank 1935 - Borg Studio Photos from the Allan Klenman Collections.



The following pages include excerpts from an authentic 1917 Warren Axe & Tools Co. Catalog. The "AXES and LOGGING TOOLS" booklet has 96 pages and is used with the permission of Mark Bertels.

WARREN AXE AND TOOL COMPANY

INTRODUCTORY

IN presenting this catalog the Warren Axe and Tool Company would call your attention to these important items: Thirty-two years of a highly successful and steadily increasing business is the best proof and strongest confirmation of the high grade and sterling qualities of our Sager Special Chemical Process brand of axes and our line of Bull Dog Logging Tools. The fact that Sager Axes and Bull Dog Logging Tools are manufactured from the best materials obtainable by workmen highly skilled in these special lines has made these brands the standards in all the principal logging camps from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from Canada to the Gulf.

We are the sole owners of the Sager Patent Chemical Process for treating metals, as per letters patent. The best grade crucible steel is used exclusively in our highest-grade axes and branded Sager Special Chemical Process. Our Bull Dog Logging Tool Brand is protected by U. S. copyright. Any infringements on our patents or copyrights will be promptly prosecuted.

Axes

The capacity of our factories is 3000 Hand Forged Axes Daily, which insures prompt deliveries.

All our axes are **Hand Forged**, which enables us to work the steel most thoroughly, thereby making it tougher than is possible by other processes used by some manufacturers to lessen cost.

In addition to the Sager Axe and our other regular factory brands we manufacture axes for hundreds of the most particular jobbers in the country under their own private brands, in both single and double bits, in all patterns, weights and finishes.

Our constant motto is "Not how cheap," but "How good." We cater only for the trade demanding highest quality.

We have purchased the plant of the well known Romer Axe Co., at Dunkirk, N. Y., which is operated as the Romer Division of the Warren Axe and Tool Co., and we will be glad to furnish the trade with any of the Romer brands and finishes.

AWARDS

As convincing evidence of the superiority and excellence of our Axes and Logging Tools we were awarded the

GRAND PRIZE

highest honors

on axes and logging tools at the Panama Pacific International Exposition, at San Francisco, Calif., and we also received the Grand Prize from the Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition, at Seattle, Wash., on the same lines manufactured by us.



Showing the modern plant of the Warren Axe and Tool Co., home of Sager Axes and Bull Dog Logging Tools, at Warren, Pennsylvania.

Below at right our Dunkirk, N. Y., plant, formerly operated as the Romer Axe Co. Address all correspondence to the main office at Warren, Pennsylvania.



The SILVER STEEL Brand

Made in all standard patterns.
Polished and Etched or Labeled as desired, with Blue Bevel, variously known as "Western Crown," "Ohio," "Pacific Coast Ohio" and as "California Ohio" (Phantom Bevel) Pattern. This pattern may be had in any regular brands and finishes.



The BEST BIG BLACK Brand

Made in all standard patterns.
This pattern may be had in any of our regular brands and finishes.



OLD FAITHFUL Brand

Made in all standard patterns.
This is a new finish and makes a beautiful axe. It has a black anti-rust finish with feather edge and very attractive label.

Axes furnished in all weights. When ordering always specify weight, brand, pattern and finish.

"Half Wedge" Pattern
Charcoal Finish

"Jersey" Pattern



The FOREST KING Brand

Made in all standard patterns, and unless otherwise specified is finished as illustrated.

This pattern may be had in any of our regular brands and finishes.



"Dayton" Pattern
Cold Bronze Finish



The BODARC Brand

Made in all standard phantom bevel patterns. Finished only as shown.

This pattern may be had in any of our regular brands and finishes.

"Western Crown" or "Ohio" Pattern
Red Pitt, Blue Bevel

Axes furnished in all weights. When ordering always specify weight, brand, pattern and finish.

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Choker Hooks

Those are hand forged from high carbon steel.



No.	Size	Price Per Doz.
1309	1 inch x 3 inches	\$26.40
1310	1 1/2 inches x 3 1/2 inches	33.60
1311	1 3/4 inches x 4 inches	36.40
1312	2 inches x 4 inches	43.00

Choker Hook with Solid Swivel

No.	Size	Price Per Doz.
1405	1 inch x 3 inches	\$ 4.00
1406	1 1/2 inches x 3 1/2 inches	5.00
1407	1 3/4 inches x 4 inches	5.00
1408	2 inches x 4 inches	8.00



Choker Hook with Link and Swivel

No.	Size	Price Per Doz.
1314	1 inch x 3 inches	\$17.00
1315	1 1/2 inches x 3 1/2 inches	24.10
1316	1 3/4 inches x 4 inches	25.50



Life Hook with Link and Pacific Coast Swivel

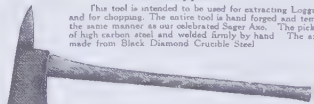
No.	Size	Price Per Doz.
1420	1 inch	\$40.00
1421	1 1/2 inches	54.00
1422	1 3/4 inches	66.00
400	2 inches	78.00
1401	2 1/2 inches	87.00
1402	3 inches	102.00

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Grab Skippers

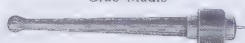
This tool is intended to be used for extracting Logging Dogs and for chopping. The entire tool is hand forged and tempered in the same manner as our celebrated Sager Axe. The pick is made of high carbon steel and welded firmly by hand. The axe bit is made from Black Diamond Crucible Steel.



This combination makes a very handy tool for the lumberman. We use the best straight grained 16-inch lumberman handle.
This grab skipper weighs 5 lbs without handle, and measures 11 1/2 inches over all. The pick is 5 inches long.

No. 288 Price Per Doz. \$26.00

Grab Mauls



This tool is made for driving Logging Dogs and is the ideal tool for the purpose. The ring is made from mild steel and we use ironwood for the handle, thus making a combination that cannot be beaten. The steel on this maul is 3 inches wide by 1 inch thick and the tool with handle weighs 9 1/2 lbs.
We insert a small pick in the bottom of the handle so that the tool can be stuck in a log to prevent its being mislaid.

No. 285 Price Per Doz. \$15.10

Steel Saw Wedges

These wedges are made from high carbon steel and are all hand forged. They are forged very smooth and with a good finish. We furnish them with links when so ordered.

No.	Size	Weight	Price Per Doz.
284	2 pounds	24	\$6.75
285	2 pounds	25	7.00
286	3 pounds	36	7.00
287	4 pounds	48	7.00
288	5 pounds	60	7.00
289	6 pounds	72	7.00

We will furnish estimates for our customers for any special pattern saw wedge on request.

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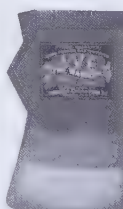
The MONARCH Brand

Made in all standard patterns, and unless otherwise specified is finished as illustrated.

This pattern may be had in any of our regular brands and finishes.



"Michigan" Pattern
Gun Metal Finish



"Baltimore Kentucky" Pattern
Young America Finish

The WARREN Brand

Made in all standard patterns, and unless otherwise specified is finished as illustrated.

This pattern may be had in any of our regular brands and finishes.

Axes furnished in all weights. When ordering always specify weight, brand, pattern and finish.

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The SAGER Brand

Hand forged and hand tempered.
Made in all standard patterns.

Always specify weight, pattern and brand.
Packed in assorted weights to suit the customer.
This pattern may be had in any of our regular brands and finishes.
This axe is not painted. It is dipped in translucent lacquer so every buyer can see for himself that the temper color of each axe shows the axe is properly tempered.



"Pugst Sound Falling" Pattern
Natural Blue Finish



YARDING ENGINE AT WORK, STATE OF WASHINGTON

11

WEED & BECKER MFG. CO. and A.G. PECK & CO.

Daniel Simmons, a blacksmith in Albany, New York, started his company around 1820. About 1825 he learned he could master the new idea of welding cast steel to the iron axe using refined borax as flux. Although he did not discover this method, he was one of the first makers to specialize in it.

The big demand for his improved axe required a larger plant. In 1826, he selected his new site at Berne, New York, building a sizable factory.

But, again, in 1834, after finding that even this factory was not large enough to meet the demand for his superior axes, he re-located to Cohoes, New York, where he found a big surplus of water power for the future. Besides, the location was ideal for receiving raw materials and shipping the finished products to market.

By 1848, his business was so big he was looking for partners to carry some of the burden. Luckily, he found two capable and trustworthy such men; William H. Weed and Storm A. Becker. The company name changed to D. Simmons & Co. and this arrangement continued until Simmons' death December 30, 1860.

Weed, Becker and a Mr. Hiram St. John continued the business under the new name of Weed, Becker & Co. Their famous cast steel axe was known throughout the land and by woodchoppers everywhere.

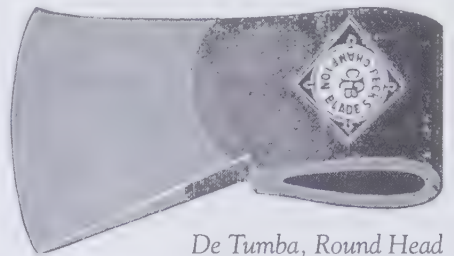
The Weed & Becker Mfg. Co. was incorporated in 1874. By this time the works covered over three acres and it could put out 100 dozen axes and 75 dozen other tools every working day!

As stated - this famous high-quality axe was used all over North America and special patterns were exported to Australia, South America, Mexico and Europe. By the early 1880's the partners found it hard to run the huge operation. Accordingly, they arranged to sell to

another old Cohoes, New York, maker, A.G. Peck & Co., who endeavored to add to the 60-year reputation of making quality axes.

The 1891 catalogue of A.G. Peck & Co. reports: "Our purchase of the Weed & Becker Mfg. Co. plant, one of the most widely known axe works in this country, gives us largely increased facilities and it is our purpose to greatly extend our business with foreign countries where their brands have been so favorably known, making Spanish axes for South America, American axes for Australia & Africa and turpentine axes for Norway and Sweden. In fact, supply the markets of the world with American goods under our different brands in all grades."

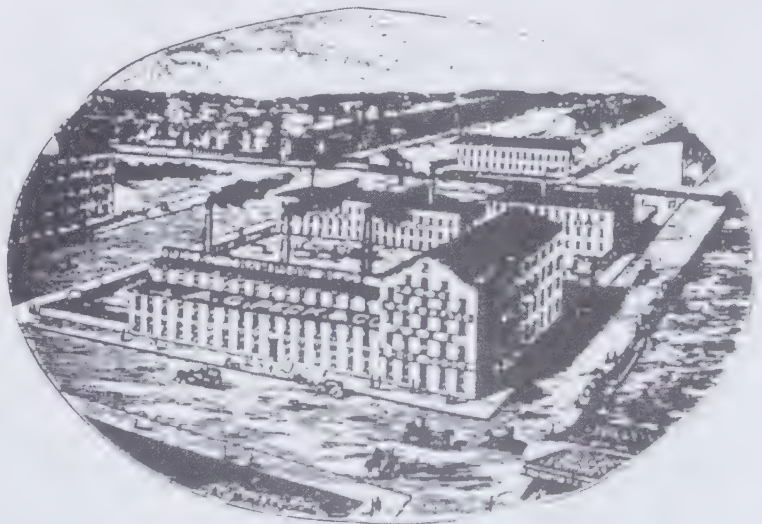
Peck's continued for some years, but sad to relate they declared bankruptcy sometime prior to 1900. It was said their product was too costly to compete with the American Axe Trust's giant factory at Glassport, Pennsylvania - a sorry day for one of America's finest axe makers.



*De Tumba, Round Head
SPANISH PATTERN*

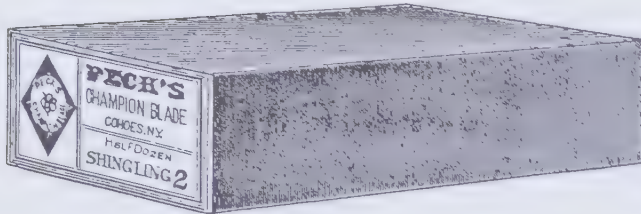


"Lippincott" pattern



(All illustrations from 1891 Peck Catalogue)

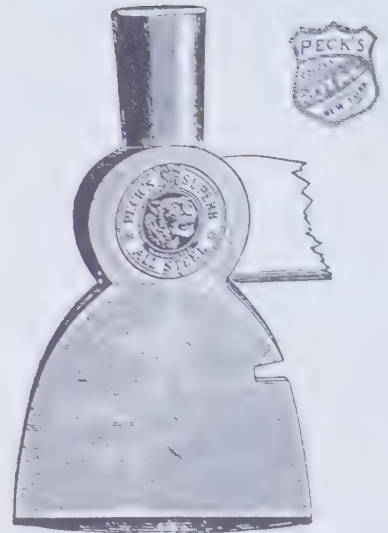
A. G. PECK & CO., Cohoes, N. Y.



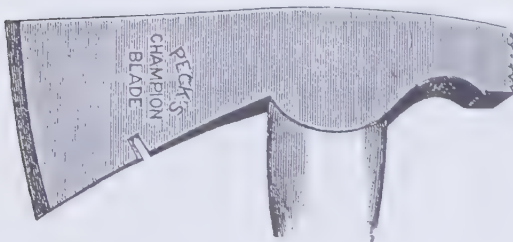
All "Peck Champion Blade" Hatchets are put up in enameled green paper covered boxes, containing half dozen, and are packed in iron-strapped wooden cases, containing four dozen.

Goods Bronze finish, or painted any color desired.

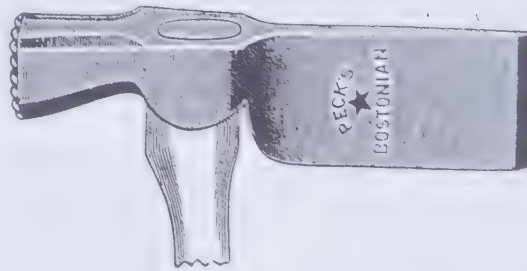
HATCHETS are made from extra quality refined AXE STEEL.
The handles are of second growth all white polished hickory.



PECK'S SUPERB SOLID STEEL

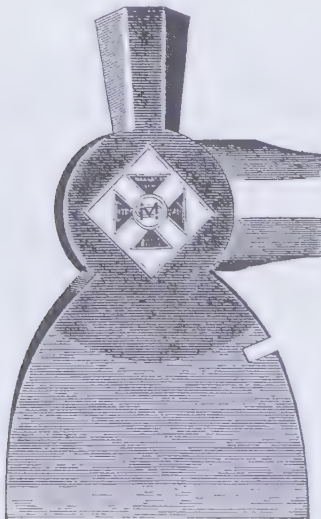


PECK'S BOSTON BARREL



PECK'S STAR BOSTONIAN

MANHATTAN HATCHETS



In addition to our line of Peck's Superb (all steel) and Peck's Champion Blade Axes, we furnish under the above Brand of "Empire" a fine line of Cheaper quality goods which will give entire satisfaction for that grade. Furnished in weights as desired.



G. White Axe Co.

This is the small 1-1/2 story building that is shown on the map on the previous page. Photo is from the Wayne G. Historical Society, Pennsylvania. It is one of the three buildings left standing today as only the main building burned. Photo provided by Dave Hauenstein III.



This photo was taken February 2006 of the same building. The falls that ran alongside the factory were the power source. It is owned by Donald Kemman. The racks where the turbine and engine room were are still there, and also several pot bellied stoves. All of the beams inside were hand hewn with broadaxes. The building looks much older inside than from the updated exterior. Axes were made here until 1928. Photo provided by Dave Hauenstein III.



WINCHESTER AXES

Oliver Fisher Winchester was born in Boston in 1810 and became a successful shirt maker. He never did have any knowledge or experience in arms manufacture but did get interested in this field because he owned a large block of shares in NEW HAVEN ARMS CO. (formerly SMITH & WESSON) and in 1857 he was elected president.

In 1866, with another man, one Benjamin Tyler Henry, he organized a new company, which he called WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS CO. of New Haven. Although he was not an engineer, he did have his business experience from his shirt making days and he was well trained in business promotion. The company became extremely successful under his leadership. He died in 1880 just as his company was completing the purchase of the rights to John Browning's first automatic rifle invention. And even though this was just the start of the fabulous growth of the company, it established the Winchester's name as a legend in the gun and weapon field.

There are few LOGOS that collectors put a high value on; KEEN KUTTER AND STANLEY would top the list. In all probability WINCHESTER AXES are no exception to this high demand. The famous script stamping on an axe regularly puts it into a higher price range and these items always sell at auctions.

But Winchester was a late entry to the axe market. Although known for superior rifles since the 1860's, it was not until after World War I that the famous name made it into axes.

In supplying the U.S. Army with arms during the war, they built up a gigantic 81 acre (11 city blocks) manufacturing centre in New Haven, Connecticut. This complex had 3,250,000 square feet of floor space, but with the end of hostilities, all the lucrative Government contracts were running out.

So in 1919, the Board of Directors decided on a bold new plan. They would purchase and set up a diversity of product lines to use up the vacant factory space. Among the nine factories they acquired was the MACK AXE CO. of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, in 1920. They paid \$200,000 cash, but kept it operating in Beaver Falls until they could trans-plant it to New Haven.

This, then, was the first of the WINCHESTER axes, hatchets and tools. They also purchased a skate making plant by name of BARNEY & BERRY of Springfield, Massachusetts, and made a top-quality line of hatchets featuring that name.

After purchasing eight other factories to move to New Haven, they found they had to have a wider distribution system than had sold their guns, etc. They originally attempted to set up their own WINCHESTER STORES across the Nation, aiming at 8,000, with 150 being owned by the company.

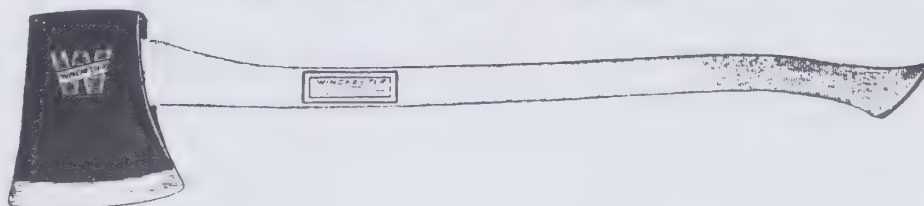
Actually only 3,500 dealers joined and only 11 company stores were opened. To supplant this system and to guarantee better distribution to the public, a merger with E.C. SIMMONS HARDWARE CO. of St. Louis was arranged in 1922.

The new company was THE WINCHESTER-SIMMONS COMPANY and was operative until 1931. This did not answer the problem of creating sales for WINCHESTER made products. Bankruptcy was declared in 1931 and the courts sold the New Haven Assets to THE OLIN CORPORATION which operated the facilities as their subsidiary.

Looking back, it seems it was just too big an undertaking to succeed. They had top quality businessmen and agents; they spent fortunes in opening up dealer affiliates and wonderful company stores, and they spent huge sums in advertising, but although they did have as many as 6,300 retail hardware affiliates and 11 of their own large stores to serve the public, at the peak, they did not sell enough products to keep the big plant open.

One can still find great WINCHESTER axes turning up at garage sales and swap meets to add to their collections, and bring back memories of the giant Winchester factory of New Haven.

WINCHESTER TRADE MARK TOOLS



CLARK WITBECK & CO.

"Dorpian"

Mr. G.L. Witbeck founded his hardware store - wholesale and retail - in Schenectady, New York in 1870. This was a full-service company destined to serve the area for 110 years.

In 1876, his son Clark joined the firm and in 1882 he took over the complete management, remaining for the next 35 years. During this time he changed the name to "Clark Witbeck & Company," and was most successful in building a great and very respected business. He was particularly interested in carrying complete lines of quality tools for every trade. What makes them so noteworthy for collectors is the name "Dorpian" registered as their trademark.

I do not know what the name denotes, but from the number of inquiries I have had over the years, I felt it should be noted that the DORPIAN name was used only on the finest quality tools in America. That their axes were supplied by the famous old Vaughan & Bushnell factory of Chicago clearly attests that they did offer the best.

The 75th anniversary advertisement (1945) claims, "Our guarantee follows every sale. Our policy has been prompt, courteous service to both retail and wholesale customers."

Witbeck sold a lot of axes and the embossed DORPIAN brand was very popular. Many collectors do not know the location and history of the trademark. As a small and local operation, it was not known nationally. However, their DORPIAN axes will live on, a reminder of a fine 110-year family operation.



CLARK WITBECK,

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in

Hardware, Cutlery, Steel, Iron

FARMING AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS,
413 State street, - - - Schenectady, N. Y

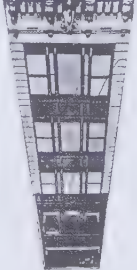
A Clark Witbeck directory ad from 1890.

HARDWARE
558 1911 SCHENECTADY DIRECTORY-1911

CLARK WITBECK CO.

Wholesale and Retail
HARDWARE
RAILWAY SUPPLIES
MANUFACTURERS'
SUPPLIES

416-418 STATE STREET SCHENECTADY, N. Y.
Phone 4-4161



This firm deals in quality hardware at prices in accordance with same. We have the superior grades of builders' hardware.

We handle a complete line of machinists', mechanics', carpenters' and linemen's tools and every tool for the home owner.

For gardens and lawns, we have the latest equipment.

Our guarantee follows every sale. Our policy has been prompt, courteous service to both wholesale and retail customers.

Wholesale Distributors for G. E. Mazda and Fluorescent Lamps.

Free Delivery in City. Phone 4-4161 and orders will receive prompt attention.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

"Quality Hardware Since 1870"
73 YEARS OF HARDWARE

A Clark Witbeck directory ad from 1943.

HARDWARE
SCHENECTADY DIRECTORY-1968 113

CLARK WITBECK CO.

WHOLESALE HARDWARE, RAILROAD,
INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT



Main Office and Warehouse
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Distributors of  Lamps

"Quality Hardware Since 1870"

A Clark Witbeck directory ad from 1968.

THE WITHAM FAMILY of Axe Makers

Those interested in axes will note that the period of axe making and use of axes from about 1850 to 1960 has been dubbed the axe age in America. By studying the number of factories and patterns during this period, one will see that there were approximately 250 factories in full swing, making over a million axes a year.

In addition, we note the ever-present blacksmith operations mainly located in small towns and villages across America. These were mainly one-man forges, but a few had boys working with the master to learn the trade, some even formally indentured as apprentices. Between the blacksmith (who always knew how to make axes) and a full-blown factory was another class of maker. These were the shops run by the owner employed one or two full-time forgers, who mainly specialized in making axes.

A good story could be written about this class of axe makers; but to start, one of the best known and highly respected was the Witham family of Caratunk Plantation in Somerset County, Maine.

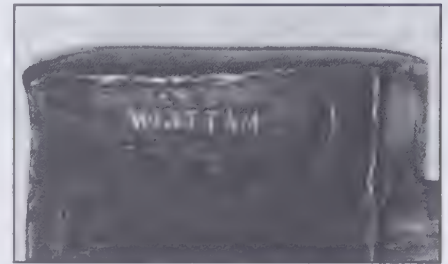
There were at least three generations who operated this factory for the 90 years they were active. The founder of the line, known as early as 1860, was Ephraim. He was still active in the shop until 1888, when he passed it on to his son, Gustave. Gustave had been working at the forge for many years by this time. His own son, Claude, had also finished his training and was ready, in 1900, to take on running the plant. Claude remained manager for the next 29 years. But in 1929, he sold out to a Mr. Clark, who had been with the Withams for some years.

With the Depression on he found it hard to compete, so by the early 1930's the factory was empty and finally demolished in 1938.

This, then, is another story of the fabulous men who made axes all their

lives and many good specimens are to be found in collections of axe collectors. There is much to be said of any family or group that can make a product and maintain its integrity for such a period of time against the huge multi-million-dollar tool makers who had benefit of the finest equipment and materials in America during much of this period. Thousands of loggers, farmers and home-makers would testify that the Witham axe had no superior. Even after the Withams closed, the demand continued and at least four large corporations recognized this and offered a Whittam axe in their catalogs for years (Kelly Co. in the U.S. and Smarts in Canada are two examples). But it will be noted that to protect the company from patent infringement and being sued, they used the name "Whittam Pattern."

No matter what, the name will live on, another part of the axe story that involved so many pioneers clearing the land of old-growth forests. Witham-Pioneer axe makers: collectors are always searching for specimens to preserve proudly.



A Witham Axe? Not quite.



The Witham Axe Factory

THE WITHERELL AXE COMPANY of Oakland, Maine

The "Best in the World" is how axe maker James H. Witherell designated his axes when he opened his own factory in Oakland, Maine, in 1886. He called his product "The Best" and advised it cost more because it was better. All his axes were hand hammered with crucible steel bits, overcoat welded, hardened and tempered one at a time - "Perfect for cutting, Balanced well for use and pleasing in appearance!"

In a small town like Oakland, Maine with most of the men working in the 16 axe factories, it was well-known that Witherell's axes were carefully inspected and the ones that were not perfect were labeled in their cheaper lines, COCK OF THE WOODS, CUTTS, and VICTORY, and sold at a lower price.

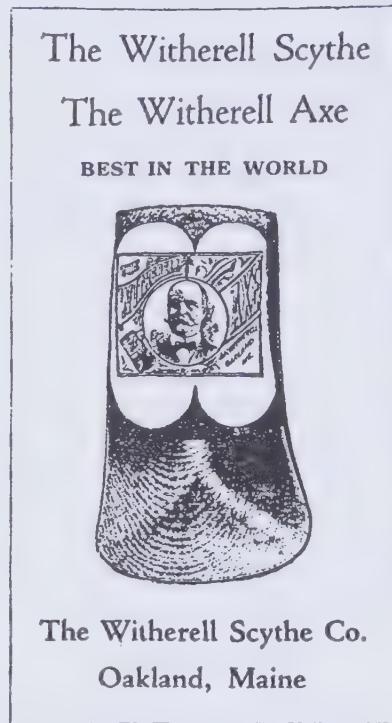
Along with Witherell scythes these tools were widely distributed and had a large following.

When J.H. died in 1916 his two stalwart sons, well trained in the art of axe making, became the owners. Major Carl and Louis von Witherell continued the business until they sold out to Emerson & Stevens in the mid-1920's.

Emerson & Stevens continued making the Witherell axes, maintaining the high standards of the original, for many years. Eventually, this separate label was dropped in favor of their own growing lines. They continued to be known as the makers of the "all hand-hammered" axe, being the final factory in America to offer this type of axe.

Finally however, competition of the "stamped out of cast steel" axe defeated them and Emerson & Stevens closed their doors for good in 1967.

The patterns made by Witherell were Michigan, Wisconsin, Full Wedge, Maine, Wide Wedge and New England, all in double or single-bit format. The other axes in their program were Jersey and Connecticut, but these were offered in single bit only.



An ad for the Witherell axe.



A Witherell axe label.



AXES.
CHARLES LEMON & CO.
MANUFACTURE SUPERIOR
CAST-STEEL AXES.
At their Shop, in Augusta, (U. C.)
TERMS OF WARRANTY.
If an Axe proves too soft, so as to bend on the edge, or
breaks in consequence of a flaw in the steel, and
is returned within thirty days from the date of
purchase, a new one will be given
in exchange.
Augusta, Dec. 16th, 1836,

(Oldest Canadian axe advertisement known to author.)

Charles Lemon, son of Neal Lemon, was an apprentice to Peter Seeley, first blacksmith in Leeds County, prior to 1810.

In 1812 he served in the war, and afterwards he set up his shop just east of the village of Maitland where he made axes, ploughs and farm equipment.

CHAPTER 4

CANADIAN AXE MAKERS



ASHDOWN'S

Home of the Diamond "A"

This was one of the largest hardware dealers in Western Canada for 80 years.

James Ashdown, the founder, was born in London, England, March 31st, 1844 and was brought to Canada as an eight year old. His father was hired as a school teacher in Weston, Ontario, but soon left that to become a merchant.

James took an apprenticeship in 'tin-smithing' at Hespeler, Ontario. In 1868 the family moved westward, arriving in Winnipeg on the 20th of June. The following year, when he was 25 years old, James opened his own business under the name of Winnipeg Tin Shop.

All of his early training as a clerk in his father's store, tinsmithing and even the study of law for two years, was a great help in establishing what was to become among the largest and most profitable hardware dealerships in the West, being valued at over a million dollars by 1900.

By 1888, Mr. Ashdown had opened a branch in Calgary, and Regina, Saskatoon and Edmonton followed.

Axe collectors are interested in this pioneer firm because of the clearly stamped specimens found in some museums and collections. The design was copyrighted but the axes were made by various Canadian manufacturers from time to time, under strict quality specifications. The design was a big diamond with a capital "A" in the center, surrounded by "Diamond A Brand - Ashdown's Guarantee."

Mr. and Mrs. Ashdown had five daughters and a son, Harry C., who eventually became president of the firm following his father's death on April 5, 1924, at the age of 80 years.

While the firm ceased doing business some years ago, an interesting real estate development will preserve the Ashdown name in Winnipeg for a long

time. The massive former Main Street company warehouse, 220,000 square feet, has been converted into 95 apartments - appropriately named "Ashdown Warehouse Apartments."



B.C. MARINE

The pioneer and famous old forge known simply as "B.C. Marine" was started as the B.C. Marine Railway Co., by the Bullen family in Victoria, in 1892. In 1898 they opened a Vancouver branch at the north foot of Victoria Drive, with Mr. George Bushby as supervisor. He was a grandson of Sir James Douglas, the first Governor of British Columbia, and Bushby Street in Victoria is named after him.

The new, super-equipped facility in Vancouver had a 250-foot marine railway, capacity 1,700 tons dead-weight. There were machine, boiler, carpenter, blacksmith and coppersmith shops. They also boasted of 10 and seven ton floating derricks, the largest steam hammer in all the Province, a 4,000 lb. Bertram steam hammer, a 2,000 lb. Nazel air hammer and a 300 lb. Bertram steam hammer. The adjacent business, Vancouver Forge, was under the same ownership and made these combined facilities the most versatile on the West Coast. Between them, they manufactured all manner of products for the logging trade, used and found all over Western Canada.

The Victoria branch built many ships, including C.P.R.'s *Princess Beatrice* (1903), *Princess Royal* (1907), *Nanoose* (1908) and the most famous of all - the grand old *Princess Maquinna* (1912).

Some items the Vancouver shop made, displaying the well-recognized oval stamp, were a full line of sledge hammers, wedges, shackles, and even broad axes. There was literally nothing this shop and its talented men could not make. Most of the deep-sea passenger liners on the Pacific coast received maintenance and repairs here to their end.

In 1914, the Vancouver branch was purchased by Bushby and other employees. The Victoria shop was sold to Yarrows Ship Yard. In 1918, Bushby retired and Innes Hopkins, J.K. McKenzie and C.J. Isted became the owners, changing the name to B.C. Marine Engineering and Shipbuilding Co.



Some of the ships built at Vancouver included the *Capilano* (for Union Steamship Co.), in 1920, and *Lady Kindersley*, in 1921, the latter for the Hudson's Bay Co.'s Arctic Service.

The building of the 65' tug *Georgia Straits*, in 1963, along with two others for Georgia Towing, led to the purchase of the company by Straits Towing, the facilities to be used for maintenance of their fleet of tugs and barges.

In 1970, River Towing Co. took over Straits Towing and the new name was Rivtow Straits Towing Ltd. The yard and forge was at its biggest during this period, with up to 200 hands employed.

This historic British Columbia company was closed in February, 1986 and many great memories are held by those pioneers who worked here or used their tools in the forests.

If you happen to own one of their broad axes, hold on to it! It is the only factory axe ever made in British Columbia and a great souvenir of a fine company - 90 years of service to the shipping, logging and fishing industries of British Columbia.

The steel barquentine "Alta" on B.C. Marine's no. 1 cradle in 1907. The vessel was registered at Mariehamn, then part of Russia. Photo from "Harbour & Shipping" magazine, February 1986.

The following is an excerpt from the article "Pioneer Shipyard Closes its Doors" by David R. Conn which was published in the "Harbour & Shipping" magazine, February 1986.

"At the beginning of 1914, the Esquimalt yard was bought by Yarrows Ltd., the British naval specialist shipbuilders.

"During the great shipbuilding boom of 1916-1920, B.C. Marine Ltd. confined itself to the manufacture of artillery shells, ship repair and fitting-out work, while other yards in the province built scores of deepsea freighters and auxiliary schooners for the Allied merchant fleets. B.C. Marine was upgraded with a new machine shop and an extension to the ship cradle, and by 1918 advertised the marine railway at a 1700 ton capacity, along with fully equipped shops, two floating derricks, a steam tug, scows, divers, and the largest steam hammer in the province. That year George Bushby retired, and the new owner/managers, Innes Hopkins, J.K. McKenzie and C.J. Isted, took over operations."



BLENKHORN AXE COMPANY

James Blenkhorn of Spencer's Island, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, descended from Yorkshire iron-workers who arrived in 1774. James started his edge-tool forge in Parrsboro in 1842. He was highly capable of making these tools for the very active wooden ship building trade which was at its peak and was destined to last into the 20th Century.

In 1846 an interim move was made to Kingsport, but in 1856 the factory was established in Canning, where it would flourish until 1962. In Canada, there were only four nationally known Axe Factories: WELLAND VALE, WALTERS, SMARTS and the WARREN CO. of St. Catharines. But there were many small shops serving cities and areas and few known on a wider scale. Blenkhorn's was one of these, supplying their fine single-bit and famous double-bit axes all over the Maritimes, heavily in Quebec, and in the logging areas of Ontario. The double-bit was a standard "MICHIGAN" pattern, stamped with a circle around "B.C.," which stood for BLENKHORN'S CHIEF, by which it was regularly known. The quality of these axes was fully recognized, one feature was its ability to be serviceable in freezing weather. Other, thinner axes would break, but the "CHIEF" stood up in amazing fashion.

James' business grew continually and by the time Hisons Sidney, & Hennigar were working with him they had steam power. The name, of course, became BLENKHORN & SONS. Throughout the years there were several fires in the plant. But we can see that each time, the buildings were re-built, bigger and better.

A cousin, Frank Vickery of P.E.I. says that when James' grandson Scott took over management, they converted to electricity. The early location was on the shore of the HABITAT RIVER, where they had their own wharf to receive coal, iron and steel and ship out their product.

Scott also installed the best drop hammer and "up-setting" machinery, for punching out the eye from the solid cast steel body. This method left the eye stronger, and there were no welded seams to come open. They produced a full line of axes, chisels, adzes, drawknives, sledge-hammers and smoothing planes. Hand and crosscut saws were also part of the output. But best known were the Blenkhorn Axes, they had a wonderful reputation for reliability and long-life.

Scott Blenkhorn was the boss for over 50 years and he was continually improving and enlarging the axe line.

Under the stewardship of this fine family, the company thrived and was the Pride of Nova Scotia. Competition from the huge American plants, inroads of power equipment in the forests and other changing factors finally brought an end to this wonderful Canadian Company in 1962 - 120 years of family enterprise and high quality axes and tools.



BRADLEY AXE FACTORY

Started by William Henry Bradley (July 3, 1832 - January 1, 1922) in Nashwaak Village, New Brunswick, in 1861, this pioneer factory was well-known for its fine quality axes. "W.H." carried on making edge tools and burning his own charcoal until well after the turn of the century.

A blue-eyed giant who weighed over 200 pounds, with flaming red hair, he was one of the most popular men in his village. People came from all over, both sides of the border, to purchase or have him make their axe.

When "W.H." could no longer work at his forge, his eldest son George (1862-1942) kept the shop open.

George Bradley was a good workman but was not as popular as the founder. He closed the forge in 1930 but remained active in local circles and his church until his death, at age 80.

Father and son ran the factory for 68 years and used the same stamp to the end. So when you find an axe with the "W.H. Bradley" stamp and their mark, the "triangle dot," remember these wonderful pioneers, known far and wide for wonderful "fine quality" axes.

The following is an excerpt from "The Little Old Mills of New Brunswick - The Bradley Axe Factory of Nashwaak Village" by Ivan H. Crowell.

"Mr. Hayward Clayton, 74 years old, of Nashwaak Village, who as a young man hauled wood for Mr. William Bradley, told me that axes were made as follows: First a length was cut from the iron axe stock, heated and bent around a template to form the eye. Then the head or poll was formed by broadening and thickening it. The bit end of the axe was next formed by tapering the sides, but the folded ends were kept apart. Between these separated ends, a piece of fine axe steel, such as was found in the factory, was carefully welded cross-wise to form the cutting edge. This edge was then very skillfully thinned and tempered in a charcoal fire. Then the bit was sharpened on a gray sandstone grind stone which was cooled with water. The grind stone was some 6" wide by 4' to 5' in diameter and tuned first by the waterwheel and later by steam power.

"This account of how William and George made their axes agrees in detail with the description of how axes were made by the Pennsylvanian blacksmith, William Schaeffer. (Mercer, 1960. *Ancient Carpenter Tools*, The Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, Pennsylvania.)

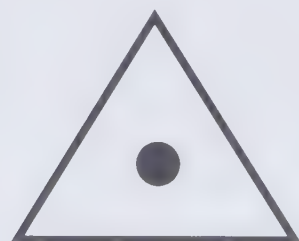
"For the first few years William Bradley had a striker - Duncan Buchanan who used the heavy welding hammer. William's helper for many years later was a Mr. Estey. He was especially talented with the big 20 pound hammer so necessary to shape the axe and weld the steel cutting portion to the iron. He was an artist in his work and could strike just the right force in just the right places that William directed him, but no one ever understood why because 'he was most wonderful cross-eyed. In fact, when he was concentrating on his work it appeared that he was gazing out the window.' As his eldest son George grew, he also helped in the many operations of the mills. He had his own forge near that of his father and employed strikers or helpers.

"It should be reported too that while William taught his son to form a good axe, he could not teach him to temper the bit to a fine cutting steel. During the time that William did the tempering, the Bradley axe was one of the best made. Nearly all local woodsmen used them, often purchasing axes by the boxful. They made both poll (they spelled it pole) and double bitted axes. Their stamp read 'W.H. Bradley.'

"Sometime between or probably during 1904-1910, William gradually retired from the heavier jobs and George took over the family business. About 1910, he purchased a trip hammer to do the heavy pounding and mechanical shears to cut the axe iron. This seems to have been an effort to meet the kind of volume production that had been creeping into many industries. As another effort to meet competition from 'factory made' axes, a deal was made with a foundry in St. Stephen, N.B. to supply the heads. The bits were welded in at the Bradley shop. So many complaints resulted that the arrangement was soon ended."



Bradley axes from Allan Klenman's collection.





THE BROAD FAMILY of New Brunswick

During the last century, fishing was ranked as the principal industry of the Maritime provinces and numerous shipyards were established in the region to manufacture fishing boats. Shipbuilding was mostly done by hand in those days and required numerous edge tools and axes. Photographs of the time invariably show the workers leaning on their "Ship's Carpenters Axes" - a small broadaxe with chisel edge.

One of the early makers of these tools was a family appropriately named Broad. Advertisements show that E. and J.W. Broad were in business in St. John in 1857. From 1862, the partnership was called E. & H. Broad & Co. (presumably the father, J.W., having retired by this time) and this company carried forth to about 1870: Their axes were extremely well made and known on both sides of the U.S. - Canada border.

Elisha and Hewlett were very much respected for their work and in 1871, Elisha moved his family to Milltown to set up a forge - calling it E. Broad & Co. This lasted until 1883. As evidence of his fine work, he was awarded a commendation at the U.S. Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, for "Axes of quality and superior workmanship."

In 1883 came another move, this time to nearby St. Stephen on the U.S. border, where the firm established themselves under the name of E. Broad & Sons. No doubt this move was to take advantage of the demand for their fine edge tools and axes from the American side.

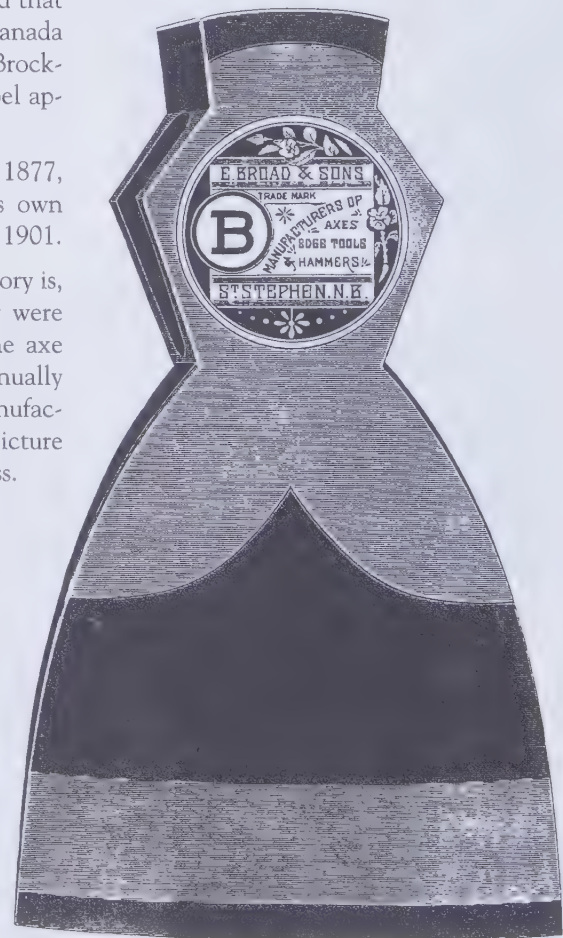
In 1885 they took over a larger plant which had been the Canadian branch of the Douglas Axe Mfg. Co., of East Douglas, Massachusetts, and operated it for the following 10 years. It was during this time that they used the "Circle B" mark on all axes.

After a long and important life, Elisha died in 1895, following which a reorganization of the company took place, with brother Harry W. stepping in as a partner. The firm was then called St. Stephen Edge Tool Co., which lasted until 1900 when it was changed to Maritime Edge Tool Co. It is suspected that the U.S.-based Mann Co. (which one?) had a proprietary interest.

Axes were made under the Maritime name using the IXL label until 1911. From 1911 the name was indeed Mann Axe & Tool Co. Ltd. and this lasted until 1943 when the plant was closed down. It has been suggested that the plant was purchased by Canada Foundries & Forgings Ltd., of Brockville, as that year, the old IXL label appeared on Smart's axes.

But, back in St. John, in 1877, Hewlett Broad was operating his own axe factory which continued until 1901.

Confusing as this family's history is, second only to the Mann's, they were important industrial figures in the axe business and collectors are continually seeking the many tools they manufactured and trying to complete the picture of this century long family business.



Ship Carpenter's Axe

THE CAMPBELLS of St. John, New Brunswick

For over 75 years, the name Campbell was the best known axe maker over all the Maritime provinces of Canada. The family included William Campbell, the founder, his two sons, Charles and Wilfred, G. Wilfred, a grandson, and his son - four generations in all, covering a period from 1862 through to the outbreak of the Second World War.

The Campbell's reputation for making quality axes and edge tools extended all across Canada. Their super ship's carpenter's axe was offered in most hardware catalogues from about 1900, and, indeed, carried by the largest wholesale house on the U.S. West coast, out of San Francisco, and in three Canadian West coast catalogues.

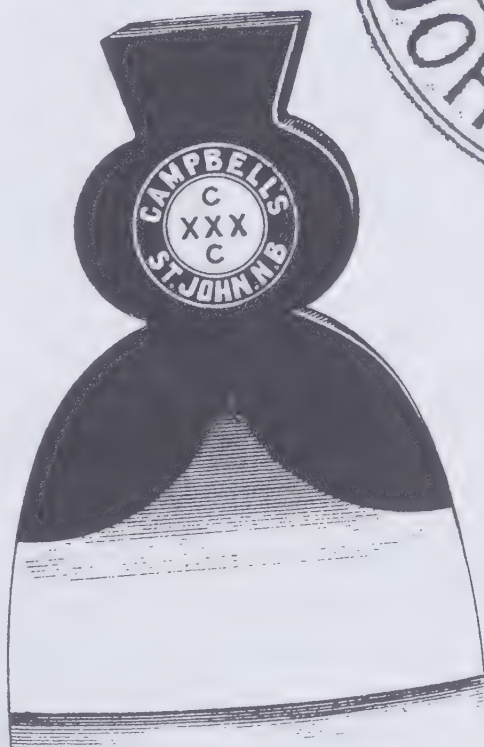
Here, they were in demand for ship-building and with loggers for fabricating bridges over creeks and valleys and for skids for donkey engines and other equipment.

Their poll axe was patented in 1915 and was also a very useful tool for "dogging," raft-making, etc.

So, of all the fine east coast axe makers, only Campbell axes were sold across the entire country.

Many specimens are found in collections and one can readily appreciate their value. Campbell Bros. incorporated a large human "arm and hammer" in their trademark and from about 1922, the stamp XXX was on every axe.

One mystery remains - what is the significance of the "Camel" device stamped on the lower blade of the ship's axe?



SHIP CARPENTERS' AXE



Hammer Poll Axe

DATE	COMPANY NAME	LOCATION
1863 - Oct., 1877	(Wm.) Campbell & (Josiah) Fowler	City Road
1881* - 1891	Wm. Campbell	Robertson St.
1891* - 1920	Campbell Bros.	Smythe St.
1920 - 1921	G. Wilfred Campbell & Son	Smythe St.
1921 - 1922	Campbell & Fowler, Ltd.	City Rd.
1922 - 1939	Campbell & Campbell	New Factory on Canterbury St.

* workforce was 8 men, 2 boys, paid \$9 per week and \$3.50 per week respectively (Sessional Papers)

JOSIAH FOWLER CO. LTD.

Just over the Maine border is the Canadian area of New Brunswick. In the nineteenth century it was supported by the huge ship building trade. Upwards of five hundred wooden ships, including some world renown sailing ships were made there. Among the workmen in the area were a number of top quality blacksmith families.

These master iron workers and edge toolmakers came to Canada as United Empire Loyalists, American colonists who remained loyal to the British crown after the United States War of Independence. Josiah Fowler was a third generation U.E.L. He opened his first shop in 1860 and in a number of partnerships, was active in St. John as late as 1922. Good specimens of his axes are still located by sharp-eyed collectors.

There was a large trade of edge tools between the United States and Canada over eight decades at least, up until World War I.

John Gardiner of the Mystic Seaport when he was visiting the Jonesport Wood Co. store (now leveled) in W. Jonesport, Maine, in the late 1970's provided similar information about Josiah Fowler. He also indicated that Fowler was an important New England area ship's carpenter toolmaker whose axes are, by oral tradition among Maine shipwrights, considered to be the finest ever made.

THE JOSIAH FOWLER CO., LTD.,

— MANUFACTURERS OF —

Springs, Axles, Edge Tools, &c.

CARRIAGE SPRINGS. CAR SPRINGS. LOCOMOTIVE SPRINGS.
COMMON AXLES. HALF-PATENT AXLES. CRANK AXLES.
NARROW AXES. BROAD AXES. BENCH AXES. ADZES.
MATCHETS. DRAW KNIVES. CHISELS. MASONS' HAMMERS.
STRIKING HAMMERS. BLACKSMITHS' SLEDGES. CLAY
PICKS. ROCK PICKS. MATTOCKS. GRUB HOES. PIN
NAULS, ETC.

OFFICE AND FACTORY:

City Road, * Saint John, N. B.



Northwest Corner of the City of St. John, N.B.
TELEPHONE NO. 96.

St. John, N.B. JUNE 21st 1895
W. F. Dibblee & Co.
Woodstock N.B.

Bought of **JOSIAH FOWLER** **Manufacturer of**

Masons & striking HAMMERS, AXES of all kinds.
CHISELS, DRAWKNIVES, HATCHETS,
Picks, Common & Half Patent Axels, Car & Carriage Springs
and **EDGE TOOLS** of every description.

Terms: *Conveyance*

<i>191</i>	<i>3 doz wedge 3 1/2 to 4 - 600</i>	<i>1800</i>		
	<i>Warranted 3 1/2 to 4</i>	<i>800</i>		
			<i>2600</i>	

GARANT, INC.

This Canadian company was founded in 1895, and is now a very large manufacturer of tools and equipment, located in Quebec.

Still managed by the same family, Mr. Louis-Marie Garant is now the President. Through the years, they have manufactured and sold axes, especially to the Quebec logging industry. The C.I.W. is a label used on the quality line and IDEAL on the standard line of axes.

We cannot establish if axes are still being manufactured in Canada but we are told some of their products are manufactured for them in Sweden.





THE HOURIGAN CLAN!

Throughout the "axe age," Canada produced some of the finest axes found anywhere. There were only four "large" axe factories, but across this broad country were found many smaller plants, lasting many years and building fine reputations for top-quality axes and edge tools.

Such was the Dundas Axe Works of Dundas, Ontario. The back-bone of the shop was the "Hourigan Clan."

It all started when James Hourigan and his family arrived from County Kerry, Ireland, in 1842, and started making axes in George Leavitt's Dundas Axe Factory at the south end of Main Street. Soon he was foreman of the factory, a position he held until 1852, when he was appointed superintendent by the new owner, Robert Holt.

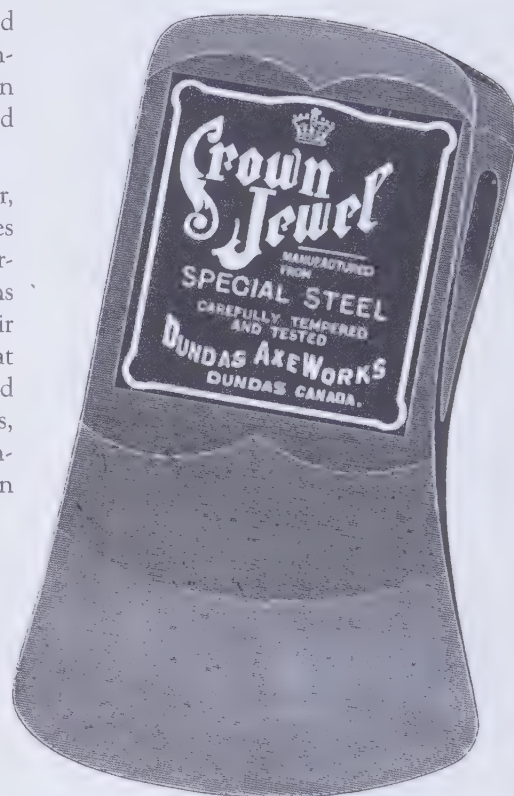
This went on for seven years until the plant burned May 17, 1859, and James moved up to Hatt Street and opened his own Dundas Edge Tool Factory.

When James died in 1870, his son Jeremiah continued the works, "making axes which had a reputation of being the best in the Dominion." Luckily, Jeremiah had a large family - five stalwart sons - Jerry, James, Michael, William and Joe. There were also three sisters.

With their two, 25 horsepower, water wheel turbines, a 30 horsepower steam boiler and a 25 horsepower steam engine, there was ample power to keep the five other hired axe makers busy. George Benton, Tom Sturgeon, Reynolds Baker, Fred Wallace and William Male were recorded as working in the factory at this period. Their output for the year was 2,500 dozen axes.

In 1874, the factory burned again but was speedily rebuilt. Jeremiah died July 18, 1878, but the famous axes continued to be made, with James Hourigan at the helm until the plant finally closed 32 years later, 1910.

Dundas Axe Works - grandfather, father and five sons - made terrific axes of all types, winning unqualified market acceptance and medals and ribbons at exhibitions for over 66 years. Their greatest fame, however, came from that great team of Hourigans who manned the forges, hammers, tempering pots, and giant grinding wheels for three generations and made Dundas city known for its axes.



DUNDAS EDGED TOOL WORKS.

JEREMIAH HOURIGAN,

MANUFACTURER OF

NARROW, BROAD, AND HAND AXES,

ADZES, SLICKS, &c., &c., &c.,

SHINGLE AND PLANING MACHINE KNIVES, REAPING AND MOWING MACHINE SECTIONS, OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

HATT STREET,

DUNDAS, C. W.

As my whole time and attention is, and has, for the last twenty years, been given to the manufacture of the above named articles, I feel confident that I can give entire satisfaction.

(from 1866 Canada Classified Directory)

KLOEPFER HARDWARE CO.

One area of study has been the Hardware Suppliers in many areas of America as they relate between the logging and "axe trade" history. One of the important links in this study is the famous Kloefer Hardware Co. of Vancouver.

Vancouver was one of the two major supply centers of British Columbia, an area 165,000 square miles larger than Texas. Among the historic suppliers was Kloefer's. Jacob Conrad Kloefer (properly pronounced Klep-fer, but known and pronounced locally as "Klofer") came from Ontario in 1909 to visit the Alaska-Yukon World's Fair in Seattle. He was so impressed with the coast, he went home and sold everything, to return the following year to Vancouver. He brought with him enough merchandise (including 19 White sewing machines) to open a business. He also brought, in the same railway car, his favorite team of horses.

His family consisted of himself, his wife Tess, two young daughters, and Benedict J., his brother.

The first company, opened in 1911, was a partnership of Kloefer, Spiers & Evans, at 42-52 Cordova Street. But, in a couple of years "Jake" went into his own business Kloefer's Hardware CO. - at 62-70 E. Cordova St. For the next 40 years he conducted a top-notch supply house, catering to the full spectrum of Logging Camps, Blacksmith Shops, Mines, the Fishing Industry and all who had need of Bar-Iron Steel, Welding Supplies, Wire Rope and, of course, Axes and Tools!

Here was a most respected and successful company throughout the growth years of the giant forest industry in B.C. Time did not stand still, and in 1954 Jacob passed away and the management passed to daughter Jacqueline and husband "Tommy" Butters. These people continued the fine reputation earned by the hardware company, but it was a time of change after WWII, with many independents amalgamating with others in order to survive the competition of the big "Mac & Mac" stores and Marshall Wells. Accordingly, in 1960, the business was sold to the James Equip-

ment Co. and in a number of years, the famous old name was dropped.

Such was the story of a fine pioneer Canadian family, operating a close-knit business, known for efficient, honest and fair dealing. They carried only the best Axes Sager, Walters, Smart's, Collins, but did not feature a "house brand." Nonetheless, they were important suppliers and many could recall that famous old Vancouver hardware company - the Big "Circle K" - Kloefer's.



62 E. CORDOVA ST.
VANCOUVER, B. C.

KLOEPFER HARDWARE COMPANY LTD.

TELEPHONE
MARINE 7354

WHOLESALE

DISTRIBUTORS OF
LOGGING EQUIPMENT, BAR IRON AND STEEL
WELDING AND BLACKSMITHS' SUPPLIES

"ITEMS ALWAYS ON DEMAND"

Axes
Axe Handles
Axe Stones
Babbitt
Blocks
Brake Lining
Broad Axes

Cable, Cutters
Chain
Chain Binders
Choker Hooks
Chopping Board Irons
Coal (Blacksmiths)

Cold Shuts
Crow Bars
Crayons
Chalk
Decking Chains
Dogs
Drag Saws

Emery Wheels
Files
Fire Equipment
First-Aid Kits
Handles, Axe
Handles, Peavy

Handles, Sledge
Jacks, Logging
Line Hooks
Load Binders
Log Rules
Peavies

Pike Poles
Pole Wire
Radio Batteries
Saw Files
Saw Wedges
Stone, Grinding
Saws



Sledges
Splitting Wedges
Spring Board Irons
Water Bags

Welding Equip't
Welding Rods
Wedges
Wire, Pole Cars
Wire Rope

36 Years in Business in Vancouver

K

"WE SHIP PROMPTLY"

A 1947 ad for the Kloefer Hardware Company Ltd. Notice the old telephone number.

"MAC & MAC"

B.C.'s Pioneer Hardware Firm

When we thought of loggers in the forests, we used to think of axes. When a faller went to work, he usually had his own axe. Indeed, many would not let their axe out of their sight. There are stories of fallers stowing their prized axes under their bunk at night while they slept.

Actually, the axe was usually safe from going missing anyway, as most fallers wouldn't touch another's axe - it wouldn't be correct for his swing, or the heft, balance, and shape of the cutting bit would be wrong as well.

So we find the fallers through the years going to the dealer who carried all the best makes - Sager, Walters, Welland Vale, and Smart's - to name Canada's top four. Mac & Mac had their own special brands, too - SUNSET and GORILLA. As well, they offered Brades' COCKATOO from Birmingham, England and Kelly's FLINT EDGE from the U.S.A.

The company originally started in Victoria, when Alfred Fellows opened a shop in 1859. Later, E.G. Prior, (an engineer from England) became an employee and in 1883 he purchased all shares from the retiring Fellows. The company was renamed E.G. Prior & Co., Ltd. and with Prior's excellent business sense it grew into the largest hardware company on Vancouver Island. Prior was also active in politics, firstly as a representative in the provincial legislature. In 1888 he was sent to Ottawa as the Member of Parliament for Victoria. In 1902, he was elected Premier of B.C. At the end of his career, he was Lieutenant-Governor, dying in that office in 1920.

When the Canadian Pacific Railway came to Vancouver in 1886, two enterprising young men were on the first train. R.P. McLennan from Pictou, Nova Scotia and E.J. McFeely of Lindsay, Ontario opened a store with a branch in New Westminster, under the name of McLennan and McFeely, Ltd. Here again, being hard workers and fully

knowledgeable in the building trades, their business grew rapidly and solidly.

Over the years, the two giants of the hardware trade boasted continuous prosperity. The mushrooming forest industry, fishing fleets, mining enterprises, and construction trades supported phenomenal growth. However, due to changes in share ownership through the years, it was decided in 1927 to amalgamate the two firms under the name most familiar to old-timers - McLennan, McFeely & Prior Ltd.

Branches in Victoria, Nanaimo, Vancouver, New Westminster, and Kamloops continued to supply the forest industry with every type of equipment. When it came to axes, you could choose from the products of over 20 manufacturers. But again, times changed and an owner from a new generation decided to sell out to a Winnipeg based corporation, Acklands, Ltd., in 1974.

The author's interest is mostly in axes. From that point of view, Mac & Mac was the largest retailer, both to the general public and the logging side. One could generally find the best products of Canada, the U.S.A., and England in their stores.

Satisfaction was guaranteed during the 115 years that "Mac & Mac" served British Columbia.



(ca. 1906)



(from 1922 advertisement)



Falling pattern



Swamping pattern
(ca. 1944)



Cal. Rev. pattern

THE “MANN IN CANADA” QUESTION

One of America's oldest axe-making names is Mann. There still are axes made with their familiar old label. It is well-known that Mann had had a branch plant in New Brunswick, but collectors and historians, in over 20 years of searching, had not found evidence of a distinctly Canadian Mann label. The question arose; were there any?

Recently however, I was lucky in finding an old catalogue (undated) published by Dunlop & Company, a hardware firm in Pembroke, Ontario. In that catalogue were illustrations of Mann axes with “Canadian” labels. Refer to the two labels shown to the right: Copper Queen & Lumberman's Special.

There had been an axe factory at “Riverside,” near St. Stephen in Charlotte County New Brunswick, as early as 1885. It operated under the name Douglas Axe Manufacturing Co. of East Douglas, Massachusetts. This plant was taken over later by the BROAD family; in 1900, a kind of partnership was formed between Harry W. Broad and the Mann Axe Co. of Lewistown, Maine to supply Canadian-made Mann axes.

This joint venture was named Maritime Edge Tool Co. and the Mann company was incorporated in Canada as The Mann Axe & Tool Co. Ltd. At the peak of the St. Stephen, New Brunswick operations, production reached 50 dozen axes per day.

These arrangements carried through until WWII when Mann found that wartime shortages of manpower and materials would limit their production capacity to just their home plant at Lewistown. Mann withdrew from New Brunswick in 1942 and their interests were sold to the James Smart Manufacturing Co. of Brookville, Ontario.

The earliest evidence of the James Smart connection is a 1942 catalogue issued by Smart's that shows the well-known “IXL” brand axe from them as “successors to Mann Axe Company Limited St. Stephen, Canada.” See the illustration to the right: Highest Grade.





The Lumberman's Special
Assorted Weights..... Per dozen....\$10.00

IXL Single Bit Axe



HIGH GRADE

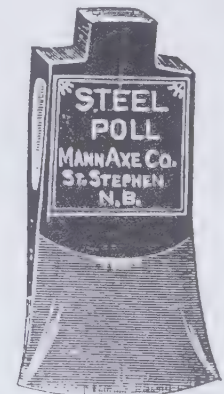
IXL Double Bit Axe



HIGH GRADE

Base Weight Sizes.....\$43.00 per doz.

Mann Maul Head Axe



HIGH GRADE

MARSHALL-WELLS

When Mr. A.M. Marshall of Duluth, Minnesota, purchased the Chapin Wells Hardware Company of that city, in 1893, he changed the name to Marshall-Wells Hardware Company. This name was used until 1915 when the "hardware" part was dropped. The reason - by this time the company had expanded to handle not only hardware, but almost every type of merchandise a western citizen, farmer or homemaker would want.

In 1901, Mr. Marshall established a Canadian headquarters in Winnipeg, which proved a very smart move. The west was growing quickly and the company grew with it. Soon, in addition to the major warehouses in Winnipeg and Edmonton, they had branches in Port Arthur, Saskatoon, Regina, Calgary and Vancouver.

By 1929, there was a Marshall-Wells retail outlet in almost every city and town of the Canadian west, and from 1920, their own paint factory in St. Boniface. This steady growth made them the largest hardware company in the western half of Canada. Although it was tough, this well managed organization weathered the depression decade, and was in a very strong financial position.

The next innovation, in 1945, was the opening of the first independent dealer store, in Killarney, Manitoba. This plan grew to 283 such stores in the next 12 years.

February 25, 1957 saw this Canadian giant sold to Gamble-Skogmo Inc. of Minneapolis, who changed the name to Marshall-Wells Canada Ltd.

Another significant step occurred two years later with the purchase of an old eastern Canadian hardware company, Wood, Alexander Ltd. That pioneer firm was founded by A.T. Wood in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1849; it was a national corporation, better known as Wood, Alexander & James for over 80 years. The purchase gave Marshall-Wells a big piece of the eastern Canadian market; in this move they acquired 93 franchise Crest Stores.

As tool and axe collectors, the names of their "in house" labels will be remembered forever. ZENITH axes were sold as "highest quality available" and NORTHERN KING were retailed as a "high grade competitive line, ideal for the handyman." Other labels were HARTFORD and JUBILEE.

The axes were made for Marshall-Wells by the best manufacturers on the continent, Kelly, Collins, True Temper and in Canada-Welland Vale.

The company had very high specifications for their axes. As a matter of fact, they had a very good testing department and all shipments received were carefully inspected and a portion were chemically and work-tested. No wonder they grew so large and were so well respected, for so long.

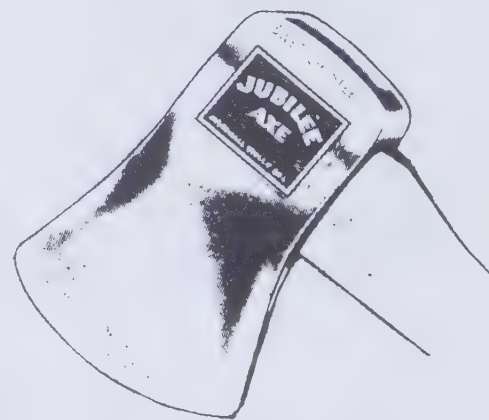
From about 1970, times and competition had taken their toll on this famous old part of Canada's growth. In 1972, the entire operation was sold to Field's Stores of Vancouver, B.C., who eventually transferred the company assets to the Hudson's Bay Co.

In 1985, another step in the history of the company saw it sold to Cochrane-Dunlop Ltd., a division of the Frederick Investment Corporation, for \$20,000,000. There were still 150 retail stores in operation.

Yes, Marshall-Wells and ZENITH - a page in the history of Canada, will not be forgotten by axe and tool collectors everywhere.



(ca. 1940)



(ca. 1950) Michigan Pattern



(ca. 1950)



MERRICK - ANDERSON CO.

Canada's 'JUBILEE' Axe of Winnipeg

The city of Winnipeg, Capital of Manitoba was the gateway to the vast Canadian wheat and farming areas, stretching right to the Rocky Mountains. As such it was the centre of a large number of retail and wholesale hardware suppliers. The largest of these, of course, would be J.H. ASHDOWN CO. but one other - MERRICK-ANDERSON & CO. was also to be recognized.

Two well-known hardware men, George A. Merrick and Thomas A. Anderson formed a wholesale firm in 1882 and by 1899 their business had grown to such an extent they were required to build their own quarters at 117 - 119 Bannatyne St., down by the river. This building was very impressive for the times; 90 ft. by 75 ft. with full basement, and five stories above ground. A full length platform ran alongside, extending 8' out. The exterior walls were a sandy coloured brick with stone lentils and arches, set on stone foundations. Steam was installed for heating.

The Company employed over 50 people at this time so one cannot argue it was a small enterprise. A Mr. J.J. McDiarmid was the Architect and the building contractor. Mr. C.W. Sharp & Son were employed to do all the brick and stone work.

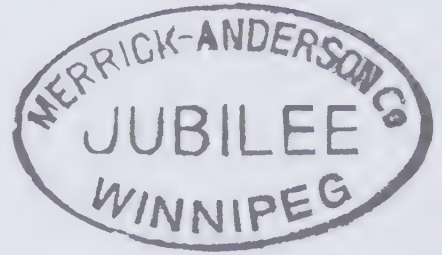
The main thrust of this report is to set into writing the answer to who issued the JUBILEE AXES in Winnipeg. We have now established that the said Company Merrick-Anderson Ltd. was looking for some promotion to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897. They wanted a smaller item that would appeal to individuals, and so, upon discussing this with the Plumb Co., one of America's largest and best axe makers, they decided on a line to feature the name JUBILEE.

This line included the top-of-the-line EMBOSSSED label and the regular line to carry a smaller stamped version (see illustration).

The promotion appears to have been successful as we have seen numerous examples reported across the country.

The final note on this company is that Mr. Anderson died in 1919 and the business was then sold. In 1920, the owner of the business next door, Mr. Bain (113 Bannatyne) purchased the building and opened it into his. Mr. Bain's business thrived until 1970, when he vacated the premises.

The present owner is doing renovations and will offer space to small renters. The main facades remain unchanged and this proud and historic building was 100 years old in 1999. But the stamped axes held by collectors and museums will ever recall the two pioneer businessmen who helped celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee with axes. And also to mark the period when Winnipeg was a major hardware centre for the wide Canadian prairies.



THE “PIONEERS”

A Canadian Military Tradition

Men with Axes & Beards!

The Pioneers were an axe “company,” of sorts, but would have no resemblance to other outfits mentioned herein. They neither made, or sold, axes - they used them. They are included for the great role they played in the military history of the country.

This “company” was a brigade, always attached to Canadian Infantry Regiments, who were ready to demolish, remodel or build bridges with their axes.

The army gave them special permission to wear beards and carry axes. Otherwise, these men were fully qualified soldiers.

One can easily recognize the great double bit axes, made by Jas. Smart Co. of Brockville. You can be sure they were kept bright and sharp.

During the First World War, over 1,000 “pioneers” were recruited at Victoria, B.C. alone and served invaluable in the war effort, as later ones did in following wars. No doubt many came from the logging trade. The last group in B.C. was attached to Queen’s Own Rifles at Work Point station in Victoria, until disbanded in 1970. However, the pioneers are still “on the books” and could be organized in short order, if needed. Sad to relate, however, they would have to use “imported” axes as no axes are now made in Canada!



This picture, taken in Korea April 24, 1954, where the platoon was attached to the famous Queen’s Own Rifles, marked the 94th anniversary of the regiment. The “leader,” Deucehorn was the Pioneer’s mascot. The men are identified as: L-R) Captain B. Taylor; L/Captain. B. Wilson; Rfn. J. Racette; Rfn. P. McLean; L/Captain. J. Chris. (Photo M. Hunt, National Archives of Canada).

THE RIXFORD AXE IN CANADA

Little has been written about this pioneer edge-tool maker although it is one of the oldest (five generations) family-operated manufacturing firms in the U.S.A. Even less is known about its Canadian history.

Luther Rixford, of New Hampshire, was the founder in 1812. He specialized in scythes which became well-known all across the nation. In 1837, Luther Rixford's son "O.S." moved the operation to East Highgate, Franklin County, Vermont. At this time, the firm was named the O.S. Rixford Manufacturing Co.

"O.S." is credited with broadening the firm's product line and in 1875, he started making axes. He advertised that his axes cost more, but that he would not make or sell an inferior product to compete with the big manufacturers.

O.S. Rixford also is credited with opening a branch factory in St. Paul, Quebec (the Montreal area of Canada). Although the date of its start-up is not clear. There was a branch of the Rixford family that, as United Empire Loyalists, had settled in New Bedford, Quebec and this may have been the motive for locating a Rixford plant near Montreal.

Like its U.S. parent, this Canadian factory featured the EBONY AXE - sold just as it came from the tempering pots with no additional painting or polishing. However, one could order these hand-made axes bronzed or polished. The axes of both plants were recognized to be top Quality, and had a large, loyal following among those who would pay for a better axe.

O.S. Rixford instituted a "fair trade" merchandising policy. He would supply only one retailer in each area, and he refused to supply jobbers who might sell to any retail outlet they desired. This policy built sales dramatically. "O.S." designed and patented (April 1, 1884) the first individual axe carton in the trade. This meant the buyer was sure his axe "was not handled by the public and was

prevented from becoming shop-worn." It easily can be imagined that many buyers went for this exclusivity.

About 1920, the Canadian Rixford plant was acquired by Welland Vale Manufacturing Co. of St. Catharines, Ontario and was operated by them as a wholly owned subsidiary. Apparently Welland Vale did not wish to acknowledge their ownership of Rixford. It did not become known generally in the industry until about 1949 when the True Temper Co. acquired Welland Vale.

It is unfortunate that little more than the above is known about the Rixford Axe Co. in Canada. It was part of a very significant and pioneer axe business. The Montreal plant was closed in 1950.

"Clipper Curve"



SMART'S

James Smart, born 1819 in Cupar Fife, Scotland, emigrated and landed in Brockville sometime after 1850. His foundry experience back home led him to start his own shop, called Brockville Novelty Works, in 1854. The opening of the Grand Trunk Railway gave impetus to his talent as a foundryman and soon he changed the name of the company to James Smart Manufacturing Co.

He continued to expand the scope of his work and the company grew quickly. They were known for the finest casting work obtainable anywhere in Canada. In 1881, the company was incorporated since their constant growth required more capital, and three important Brockville business men became share-holders at this time - John M. Gill, Robert Gill and John H.A. Briggs.

The next 30 years saw many changes and phenomenal growth. Four smaller local manufacturers were purchased; Smart & Sheppard (a cousin), Chown & Cunningham, Brockville Wringer Co. and John Briggs & Son. But, the most important acquisition was taking over the Brockville plant of the Montreal axe maker, The Gardiner Tool Co.

This was in 1899 and was a most significant step. Mr. Jas. G. Gardiner, the superintendent of the plant, continued in that capacity for Smart and held that position for the following 30 years. He was highly respected and totally responsible for the superior quality tools and axes for which the company was known right to the end in 1967.

Their trade mark was a "Diamond G." Many said this was Gardiner's stamp of approval on his axes and tools, but actually the "G" stood for Gill Bros., and is reported in the company minutes of 1885.

Notwithstanding the retirement of James Smart, sometime before 1900, the company continued to grow steadily as a result of the high quality being maintained in their products. It was known from coast to coast and had built up an enviable export volume.

In 1911, Mr. Briggs, the major shareholder, sold the factory to Mr. W.M. Weir, who took over active management. The next year, 1912, he sold the majority of his shares to another large manufacturer, Canada Foundries & Forgings Ltd., but was retained as president of the Brockville operation.

He was determined to offer only the very best product and was proud of his company's excellent reputation. For most of its life, the plant employed up to 400 men, Brockville's largest.

Smart axes, nail hammers, lawn mowers, pumps, hollow-ware, furnaces, school furniture, and hardware of all kinds, were household names throughout Canada. Constant attention to maintaining the high quality of the Company's products, and the service regularly extended to its customers was always a priority with Smart's. Sales offices were opened in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver.

But, as many a good corporation found, times and products did change, and by 1967 it was found expedient to

close the operation - perhaps the main reason being the failure of the axe market. Since the end of the war the chain saw had taken over the task of logging and clearing, and Smart's was one of the final makers to close. Today, no axes are made in Canada.

Not only had they supplied top-quality, dependable axes and tools, but Gardiner had insisted these tools "look good," too. Their top of the line axes carried ENDURANCE labels and were deeply stamped with the famous "Diamond G." and "BROCKVILLE, CANADA," although approximately 30 variations are recorded over the 112 years manufactured.

The site of the factories, bounded by the St. Lawrence River, Home St., Gourlay St., and Kincaid St. has been turned into Hardy Park and was donated to the city and district of Brockville.

When one sees the famous "Diamond G." on a fry pan, waffle iron, axe or tool - it recalls the famous old Smart's Company which helped build Canada for 112 years.





British Columbia Pattern
(ca. 1903)



The James Smart Manufacturing Co.'s Works, Brockville, Ontario.

The following is a list of "stampings" found on Smart's axes through the years:



THE JAMES SMART MANUFACTURING CO. LTD.

1a		Diamond "G" only.	5c		First use of "CANADA" for export market.
1b		"SMART'S" added.			
2a		This stamp was regularly used up to 1903.	6a	SMART BROCKVILLE CANADA	Export.
2b		Export stamping.	6b	SMART BROCKVILLE	Used in 1920's, 30's and 40's. Known in both large and small letters.
3		Commenced approximately 1910.	6c	SMART'S 444	Note: "SMART'S"
4a	444 SMART	"444" Trade-mark introduced in 1915.	6d		"Boxed" label. Note: A variety with one-half the vertical bar in "T" missing is quite common.
4b	SMART 444	"444" shifted below.	7a		New "stylized" logo, late 1930's.
4c	SMART'S 444	"SMART'S" variety.	7b		"CANADA" added.
4d	SMART'S 444	In-line "444".	7c		Export.
4e	SMART'S 444 	"Rare" marking.	8	JAMES SMART PLANT BROCKVILLE ONTARIO	Rare.
5a	SMART 444	Note: This stamp found in both large and small letters.	9	JAS. SMART MFG. CO. LTD.	
5b	SMART'S 444	Note: "SMART'S"	10	JAMES SMART'S, CANADA	Not yet found on axes.
			11	JAS. SMART MFG. CO. LTD. BROCKVILLE, ONT. CAN.	Probably used for export.

WALTERS AXE CO. LTD.

When Morley Punchon Walters died in 1969, age 101, he was still owner and president of Walters Axe Company, of Hull, Quebec. The factory had made axes for Canadians, Americans and 21 other countries - obviously a superior product - since 1854.

The Walters name first shows up in research back to the year 1851. Henry Walters had come from Sheffield, and his name is found in the Canada Census for Perth County - N. Easthope, Upper Canada, 1851, with his own blacksmith shop, age 33. There were two children, not named in the Census. No doubt, some early training at such a notable spot in England had prepared him for a life's work in the iron trade.

The next reference to him is at Ottawa, 1864, where by then he is foreman for S.J. Tongue & Co.

The first reference connecting him with the famous Walters Plant in Hull, Quebec, then owned by Sexton Washburn, is in 1866, where he is shown as "Axe Maker."

By that time, Washburn's factory was a three-story stone building. The power was water, rated 50 horsepower. Six employees earned a total of \$156.00 per month. They were very hard-working, putting out 4,000 narrow axes and 400 broad axes per annum. In dollars, the narrow axes fetched \$5,328, and the broad axes \$2,000. The factory used 10 tons of iron, 2-1/2 tons of steel, and 12 tons of grinding stones, a total annual cost of \$2,040.14

David Perch, of Ottawa, who has written a scholarly history of the Walters family, says that 1886 was the date Henry purchased the company, although the change of name to H. Walters & Sons does not show up in the annual city directory until 1889.

The sons referred to in the company name were Henry, Jr., David and James. Another son, Morley, being born June 10, 1868, was not yet engaged at

the factory. Indeed, he attended McGill University, graduating in 1897 with a degree in engineering.

After Henry died in 1901, Morley was indeed active in the management of the plant, becoming President in 1912. The company was then known as Walters Axe Company.

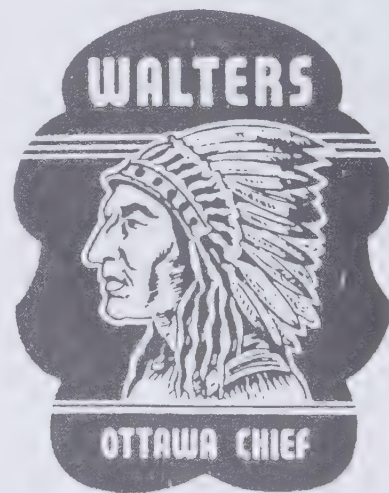
This was to continue for 57 years until his death. Morley was well-known in the trade as a vigorous salesman for his company's products. He had a ready wit, and was always making improvements in the production line and even wrote some of the advertising used nationally.

The company was sold after his death, and as most of the axemakers found, the chainsaw made it impossible to keep a huge plant profitable. It was closed by the new owners for good in 1973.

The wonderful Walters axes - as many as 400 patterns, weights and labels - were also well-known in the U.S.A. There was a fabricating plant and warehouse maintained for many years in Ogdensburg, New York.



M. P. WALTERS B.A. Sc.
Naturalist, Poet, Fisherman



MIDGET

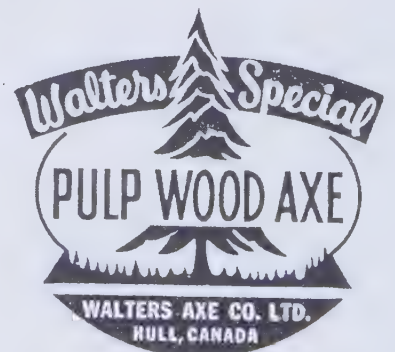
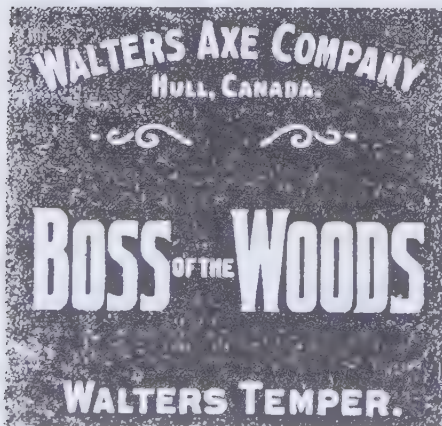




Some of the famous trade-names known over most of the 87 years under the Walters name are easily recognized:

BLACK DIAMOND,
OTTAWA CHIEF,
CHARCOAL TEMPER,
OUR BEST,
and BOSS-OF-THE-WOODS.

One final interesting fact for axe collectors: in 1920, Morley appointed a Vancouver, B.C., wholesaler - Fleck Bros. - as their exclusive representatives in Western Canada. Stamped on the reverse of all axes provided to Fleck's was the name "FLECK BROS." Collectors are ever searching for this variation of the Walters labels.



J. WARNOCK & CO.

Pioneer Canadian Axe Maker

To tell the story of this very early Canadian axe maker, known as the Galt Axe Factory, we have to recognize one of Canada's most important industrialists in the middle half of the 1800's.

Mr. H.H. Date started the Company in 1844. He earns his position in history because he is known to have put together three very important manufacturing factories in early Canada. After selling GALT sometime before 1869, he moved on to St. Catharines in 1869 to create what would become Canada's largest edge tool factory, lasting over one-hundred years.

We do not know what the true story is, but we can guess from the records available, that he and his two St. Catharine partners, a Mr. Tuttle and a Mr. Rodden, were too "aggressive," and so, in 1874, they had to sell the plant to others. The new owners, building on the excellent start, changed the firm name to Welland Vale Mfg. Co. and made it the largest axe factory in Canada.

Mr. Date was not finished, however. In 1875, we find him in Toronto, as owner of Date's Patent Steel Co.

Meanwhile, James Warnock, who was born in Nelson, a suburb of Glasgow, Scotland, 12 October, 1825, came to Galt with his parents in 1833. His parents took to farming but after some schooling, James purchased a Hardware Store, in 1860, which happened to feature some of Date's products. By 1870, he had made a deal to take over the Galt Axe Factory, renaming it Galt Edge Tool and Carriage Spring Works.

The rest is well documented. Warnock was a hard working, talented businessman. Warnock & Co. became one of the most respected and well-known names across the Country for first class quality tools. This lasted for nearly 30 years until his death, February 5th, 1898, at 73 years of age.



Galt Edge Tool and Carriage Spring Works (ca. 1899)

He lived a full life, finding time to sit on Town Council, act as Chairman of the Cemetery Committee and participate actively in his Presbyterian Church. After his death the management of the factory was given to Mr. F.H. Hayhurst, who continued to operate the plant in full production for approximately another 20 years.

The facilities were located on North Water Street, backing onto the Grand River. They used canal water as a source of power, in addition to having standby steam boilers.

To the end, quality and dependability was the ingredient to the great demand for Warnock tools. They did not sport the fancy names or labels as those of other companies, but if you had a Warnock axe, you knew you could buy no better.

In 1876, at the Philadelphia World's Fair honoring the U.S.A.'s Centennial, it was noted: "Warnock & Co., Galt, Ontario, exhibited cast-steel Axes, the axes being forged entirely from cast-steel, and the eye of the Axes punched out of the solid bar. In addition to a vari-

ety of Axes, the Company manufactures a large assortment of Cooper's Tools, Adzes, Drawing Knives, all of 'excellent design and superior workmanship.' This exhibitor was worthy of a Silver Medal granted by the Canadian Commission to exhibitors from the Dominion."

These top-quality products, including the SUPERIOR axe line, were carried by the most important wholesale hardware companies across the entire nation, including, to name but a few:

Wood, Vallance & Leggat

T. Eaton Co.

Ashdown's Hardware

Mac & Mac of B.C.

Caverhill-Learmont, Montreal

Warnock Broad Axes, Chopping Axes, Hewing Axes and Adzes were the most popular products but their Chisels were a close second. An axe with "The J. Warnock Co. - GALT" stamping makes it an immediate collectible, when found at a swap meet or farm sale. Such tools remind us of the era when Canadian enterprise was tops in the production of tools used to build the Dominion.



Railroad



(ca. 1902)



HANDLED BENCH AXE



Two "stamped" axes made by Warnock's Galt factory - author's collection

CANADIAN WARREN AXE & TOOL CO.

The Sager Axe of St. Catharines, Ontario

Anyone who has worked in the woods knows the SAGER axe. This brand of axe was among the most popular choices by fallers and loggers, because of the high quality steel, the beautifully-made patterns, and, of course, the dependability under the harsh conditions of the early hand logging era.

The SAGER axe was the top-of-the-line product of the Warren Axe & Tool Co., of Warren, Pennsylvania. Finding there was a big demand in Canada for this axe, the parent company built a new factory, in 1912, at St. Catharines, Ontario, to be known as the Canadian Warren Axe & Tool Co. Ltd. This plant also manufactured logging tools and equipment.

The next year, with business growing impressively, a merger was formed with the Canadian Logging Tool Co. It was this year that the well-known SOO line of tools was also introduced.

Until 1928, the Warren Co. was very successful, and from private sources it is said that their double bitted SAGER WESTERN FALLING AXE, of Puget Sound Falling Axe pattern, earned almost 50% of the market for that pattern. It was also in 1928 that a further merger was arranged - with another old Canadian manufacturer, Thomas Pink Co., of Pembroke, Ontario.

Pink was founded in 1866 and made a wide range of logging equipment. The new company was called Canadian Warren-Pink Co. Ltd. A third plant at North Devon, New Brunswick, and an assembly plant and warehouse in Vancouver, British Columbia were added to make the company what would have been considered a large corporation.

But in 1936, the Depression forced closure of the old Pembroke factory as an efficiency measure.

Anyone who has seen a SAGER long (13-3/4 inches from bit to bit) falling axe will understand its popularity with the "hand-falling" loggers. Besides, when new, it had a beautiful Gun-Steel Blue finish and an impressive label:



"Sager Special Chemical Process Axe"

"This axe is forged and tempered by Special Chemical Process which gives the steel greater durability and a greater capacity to hold a finer cutting edge, thereby producing a superior axe. It is guaranteed against flaws in steel, or softness and should always be ground toward the edge. None genuine without our label."

In 1951, the entire conglomerate was purchased by another large Canadian Corporation - EFT TOOLS LTD., of St. Catharines.

SAGER axes were still big business - until the chain saw invasion, and by 1965 the axe portion of the plant in St. Catharines was forced to close.



PACIFIC COAST
FALLING PATTERN

WELLAND VALE

(True Temper of Canada, Limited)

There were periods in Canadian history when the use of the axe grew in leaps and bounds to satisfy the population growth from immigration and the harvesting of the huge original stands of forests from the maritime coasts, across the wide country, to the giants of the British Columbia rain forests.

The local blacksmith made axes of every shape and for every use. By the 1860's the "axe factory" had emerged where many blacksmiths worked in a plant and even began to specialize at hammering, grinding, polishing or tempering.

One of these early factories, destined to be Canada's largest maker of axes and to last nearly 100 years, was founded in 1869 at St. Catharines on the old Welland Canal #2.

The company was Tuttle, Date & Rodden. Not much is known about these men except Mr. Date, who was known to have had connections in both Toronto and Galt. They called the plant The Welland Vale Works.

Although the factory commenced manufacturing in 1869, they must have been pretty good workmen. Fine exam-

ples are known in collections and museums (Glenbow in Calgary, for one). At the Toronto Provincial Fair, 1870, Tuttle, Date & Rodden were awarded first prize for "Best six chopping axes." The prize was \$3.00!

But times were tough and possibly the company overextended themselves by putting out a wider range of tools and implements than they could handle. By 1874 they were "financially troubled" and were "taken over by a Mr. William Chaplin" who changed the name to Welland Vale Manufacturing Co.

The St. Catharines newspaper reported, in 1874: "The Works are driven by steam or water power, as may be required. They manufacture every description of edge tools, axes, scythes, and the celebrated Rodden Fork. The machinery is of the most perfect character, and no doubt like all factories established on the Welland Canal, the Welland Vale Works will prove a great source of profit to their owners, as well as of great benefit to the community generally."

The Manager is Mr. William Chaplin, a gentleman of extensive experience in his line of business, and inspection of these works will repay a visit."



BROAD AXE

Indeed, Mr. Chaplin's "extensive experience" must have been good, because the company prospered and continued to grow at an exceptional rate. From 1874, under the leadership of father and son, Welland Vale Manufacturing Company grew to be Canada's largest axe manufacturer. They started with a meteoric rise, as the following article, published only a year later, will attest to: "The company has an empire market for it's goods and does a large export trade in addition to it's splendid home business. The name Welland Vale is known throughout the length and breadth of the British Empire and as standing for quality implements." (St. Catharines News Report, 1875)





FACTORY
LOCK No. 2.
ST. CATHARINES
SAW FACTORY
LOCK No. 3.
ST. CATHARINES.



The Welland Vale Works as it appeared before the fire of 1900.

In 1879 The Standard reported "Seventy hands are employed making axes and edge tools to the value of \$100,000 per annum." A further report in 1882 stated "85 hands."

In 1892 Chaplin began expansion by building a new factory, The Canada Axe and Harvest Tool Mfg. Co., in Montreal and in 1895 he purchased the Bedford Mfg. Co., at Bedford, Quebec.

Chaplin's son J.D. Chaplin, was working for the company as early as 1893, shown in the records as Secretary of the firm.

A great fire in St. Catharines, on May 28, 1900, destroyed the Welland Vale Works, along with several other companies. At the time of its loss, the factory was worth \$235,000 and 225 men were put out of work. Immediately, the plant was rebuilt, with all the "modern" improvements, and business continued to grow.

By 1913, J.D. Chaplin had taken over as Vice-President and in 1921 he was named President.

But in 1930, after 56 years under the Chaplins, new owners appeared on the scene. In a letter dated September 11, to all "Friends and Customers" it was announced that the giant American Fork and Hoe Corporation, owners of America's largest axe factory, the Kelly Axe Manufacturing Company at Charleston, West Virginia, had purchased all the assets from the Chaplins.

For most of the years from about 1900, the "top-of-the-line" product was their BLACK PRINCE axe ("The Best Axe Made"), while they also manufactured FOREST KING, SUNSET, ROYAL OAK, PREMIER, OUR BEST WESTERN, STAG HEAD, CARIBOU, LION, SIGNAL and about 200 other labels.

A most interesting phase commenced some time after the 1930 ownership change. A new line of axes was offered with names such as KELLY STANDARD-HAND MADE, KELLY TRUE TEMPER, SUPERIOR axe and FALLSCITY axe. All these were marked as being "Manufactured by" Kelly Axe and Tool Co. of Canada, Limited.

This was obviously an attempt to capitalize on the prestige of the famous old name in axe making "KELLY" (KELLY PERFECT, KELLY WOODSLASHER and KELLY FLINT-EDGE).

As part of the purchase deal, a new plant, The Canadian Shovel Works at Hamilton, Ontario, was added to the other plants, namely:

The Canadian Shovel & Tool Co., Ltd.

The Maple Leaf Harvest Tool Co., Ltd.

The Canada Axe & Harvest Tool Co., Ltd.

The Bedford Mfg. Co. Inc.

All of these were made subsidiary companies to the newly incorporated Welland Vale Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

Somewhere in this corporate maze was a handle manufacturing company, taken over years before, to supply all the handles required by the Welland family of factories. This was the TURNERDAY works (Canadian Turner-Day Handle Co.) at Strathroy, Ontario, which was advertised as the "World's Largest Makers of Hickory Handles."

With the depression weathered and the Second World War finished, the nemesis of all axe makers, like a fast moving fatal disease, attacked. "Chain Saw" was the enemy and did he move fast!

Between 1960 and 1970, across America, 98% of all such companies were either completely out of business or merged with other industries.

Prior to this eventuality however, Welland Vale had a few steps to move through.

Firstly, in 1950 the world renowned trade-mark "Welland Vale" was changed to "True Temper" although for a transitional period of a few years, "Welland Vale" was also stamped on the axe-head.

Then, on June 1, 1965, the company name was officially changed to True Temper Canada Limited.

But, in less than a year the famed Welland Vale plant closed, throwing 94 men out of work. Any True Temper axes sold after this time in Canada were

made at the Charleston, West Virginia, plants and sold in Canada labelled "True Temper-Kelly."

By 1983, this greatest of all American plants had been killed, too, a victim of the chain saw like all the rest.

After the introduction of the TRUE TEMPER line in 1950, WORLD'S FINEST-BLACK PRINCE and TRUE TEMPER were featured labels. The Canada Axe Works in Montreal always had their own labels, namely CANAXE, BLACK KNIGHT and RIXFORD.

For many years, Welland Vale also manufactured axes to the specifications of other Canadian retail organizations. For example, ZENITH axes for Marshall-Wells Hardware (same quality as Black Prince), SAGER axes for Canadian Warren-Pink, and probably others.

One of the most human stories connected with this famous maker of "Canada's Best Axes" is about the man, or more accurately, the boy who became a man, who worked 72 years at the main plant in St. Catharines. T.D. (Thomas) Shea was born in 1869, and started work at the factory prior to his 14th birthday. Tom worked continuously and was eligible for retirement in 1934. Such was not for him, though - he worked as foreman another 10 years to earn his gold watch. Then, yet another 10 years he worked for the firm, until September 30, 1954 72 years continuously with the same company. Of course, there was a grand banquet at Welland House, with everyone, from the President on down, to say "Bon Voyage" to a great old axe maker.

Just one more record associated with this great Canadian axe company.

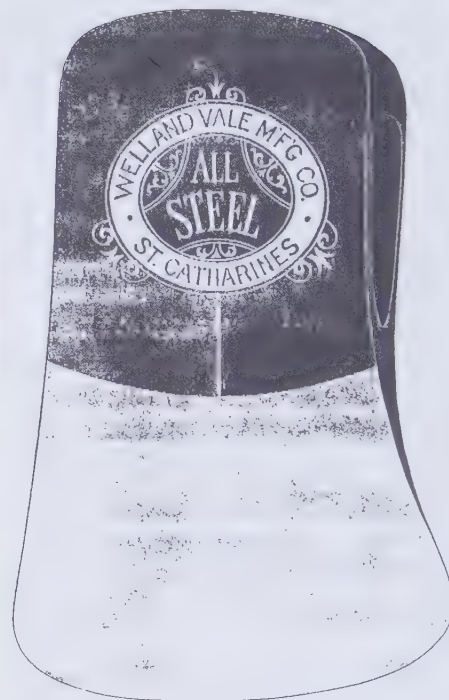
The major portion of the Welland Vale Works still stands. In 1966 the Lincoln County Board purchased the property from the True Temper Company to be used as an educational facility, Welland Vale Centre, which it remains today.

WELLAND VALE

MFG. CO., LIMITED

TRADE

MARK



CHOPPING AXE
"Solid Steel" Round Pull
(ca. 1890)



(ca. 1910)



"Model Axe"



(ca. 1896)



Chronological History of Welland Vale - True Temper

- 1869 Commenced operation in St. Catharines, Ontario, by a partnership of E.C. Tuttle, H.H. Date and W.H. Rodden as **Tuttle, Date & Rodden**.
- 1874 William Chaplin purchased this financially troubled company and changed name to **Welland Vale Mfg. Co.**
- 1892 Built a new plant in Montreal called **Canada Axe & Harvest Tool Mfg. Co.**
- 1895 Purchased the factory in Bedford, Quebec - **The Bedford Manufacturing Co.**
- 1900 Approximate year that Mr. J.D. Chaplin took over management.
- 1930 Two new companies were acquired - the **Canadian Shovel & Tool Co.** in Hamilton, Ontario, and the **Maple Leaf Axe & Tool Co.** at Tilsonburg, Ontario.
- 1930 Complete holdings purchased by the giant American conglomerate, the **American Fork & Hoe Company**, the owners of the **Kelly Axe Mfg. Co.**, of Charleston, W.V. Kelly axes were made in Canada during this period.
- 1950 Name of **True Temper** first used on axes in Canada, but for a two year period, axes also carried the old name, Welland Vale.
- 1960 Purchased by **United Corporation**, of New York.
- 1961 Absorbed by **Allegheny Ludlum Corporation**.
- 1965 June 1st, the name of the company was officially changed to **True Temper Canada, Ltd.**
- 1965 Late in the year, **Welland Vale** closed forever, but the **Tru Temper** axes made in Charleston continued to be sold throughout Canada.
- 1983 Charleston plant closed and axes made in Brazil. New corporate owner of **True Temper** is **Allegheny International**, of New York.
- 1985 Purchased by **Emhart Consumer Group**.
- 1990 The **Emhart Consumer Group** of Canada, which handled the **True Temper** line, sold out to **Black & Decker**, who offer **True Temper** products in Canada, imported from the U.S.A.

A.S. WHITING MFG. CO.

One of Canada's Best Early Axe Makers

Oshawa, County of Ontario, Upper Canada, was established as a Village in 1850. Two years later, A.S. Whiting organized the Oshawa Mfg. Co. to make farm and edge tools. The capital was a huge \$75,000 and from that beginning, their importance in the field of tools put Oshawa on the map, leading to its incorporation as a city in 1879.

Eight years after the start, a Mr. Tuttle was taken on as partner and the company name was listed as Whiting & Tuttle.

Seven years after that, the name was Whiting & Cowan (John and W.F.). This was the period (1860 onwards) that Oshawa became noted for making some of the finest axes in America.

The company was awarded medals at the Agricultural Fair in Toronto (1875) for "Superior Axes" in manufacture and finish. In 1876, at the U.S. Centennial Exhibition held in Philadelphia, the judges "commended" Whiting for "The highest quality; patterns and finish highly commended." Also, the same year, a medal "For Excellence" at the Paris Exhibition. Sad to relate, "A.S." did not live long, dying later in the year.

His son, E.G. Whiting, joined the James Smart organization near the end of 1876 and it is speculated that he had sold the Oshawa company to them. This idea is supported by the appearance of the well-known "MAPLE LEAF" label, that Whiting had used, on Smart's axes offered to the public commencing in 1877.

It was a great company while it lasted but as so often is found, when the leader dies, the team falls apart!





Michigan Pattern, Swamping Axe
(ca. 1935)

CHAPTER 5

FOREIGN MAKERS



SPEAR & JACKSON

Spear & Jackson (Tools) Ltd. is located in the Wednesbury area of the West Midlands of England, but have branch offices all over the world. This company has been making a wide variety of tools for many years. They have absorbed a number of other corporations who manufactured axes, namely, Wm. Hunt & Sons - The Brades Ltd. of Birmingham and Edward Elwell Limited, which was established in 1801. Spear & Jackson manufacture a number of patterns for Garant, Inc., of Quebec.



BRADES CO.

Those who collect or study axes have often found older models marked with a 'giraffe' and/or 'Brades Co.' and have been puzzled as to the origin of these axes.

The original source was William Hunt & Sons, The Brades Ltd. of Birmingham, in England. Some years past, this company became part of Spear & Jackson (Tools) Limited of Wednesbury, West Midlands, England.

Some of the famous Brades patterns can still be purchased from stock and others, with a firm order of at least 3,000 items, will be manufactured by Spear & Jackson.

British Columbia woodsmen favoured these fine axes when they were carried by the old firm of McLennan, McFeely & Prior, as their regular stock for over 50 years, until after the Second World War.

The COCKATOO Double Bit was highly prized by some of the top fallers of the hand-logging era.



GIRAFFE
BRADES CO.



TROJAN

This Australian company is rapidly making a worldwide name for itself by virtue of their high quality, beautifully finished axes.

They manufacture a wide range of garden and edge tools but their "Racing Axes" for competitive logging contests are in a class by themselves. They include the following models:

- (1) *Standard Racing Axe "Bright and Black Finish with a 6" Cutting Edge"*

- (2) *Wide Racing Axe "Bright Finish with a 6-3/8" Cutting Edge"*

- (3) *Extra Wide Blade Racing Axe "Bright Finish 7" Cutting Edge"*

In addition, a complete list of patterns and weights are available in Australia or world wide.



DANIEL KREMENDAHL CORP.

Originally founded in 1781, this West German company produces a high quality product sold around the world. Canadians in every province will recognize "ILTIS" and the famous OX HEAD brand and label.

Quality control of steel and very high standards of workmanship mark these axes as amongst the finest in the world.

Many classic European patterns are still made and sold, including the most interesting and beautiful SPALTAXE-HOLTZAXE splitter weighing 2750 grams.



The Ox-Head label is incorporated into the "maple leaf" outline used by the Canadian importer, H.R. Radomski & Co., Toronto.

JOH. WIEBELHAUS & CO.

Another large West German corporation is the manufacturer of TRUMPETER brand of axes, sold throughout America.

Their line includes all patterns familiar to North Americans and also European and world patterns.

The No. 1030, Long blade wedge type "Rafting" axe is worthy of note, available in 3, 4 and 5 pound weights.

SWEDISH AXE MAKERS

Collectors are always looking for good axes. One of the best places to think of is Sweden - a country that has placed a high value making quality edge tools and axes since time immemorial.

Today, the expert axe manufacturers produce the same high quality products in two complete programs: European patterns and patterns known better in the rest of the world.

Hults Bruk

The largest company can trace its start, as a forge, to the Hult valley in southwestern Sweden in 1697, and was called Hults Bruk (Mill). By 1880, the major part of their production was axes, even then known all over Europe and the world for their excellence.

For the following 110 years, they have continued to specialize in axes, in the widest range of patterns anywhere.

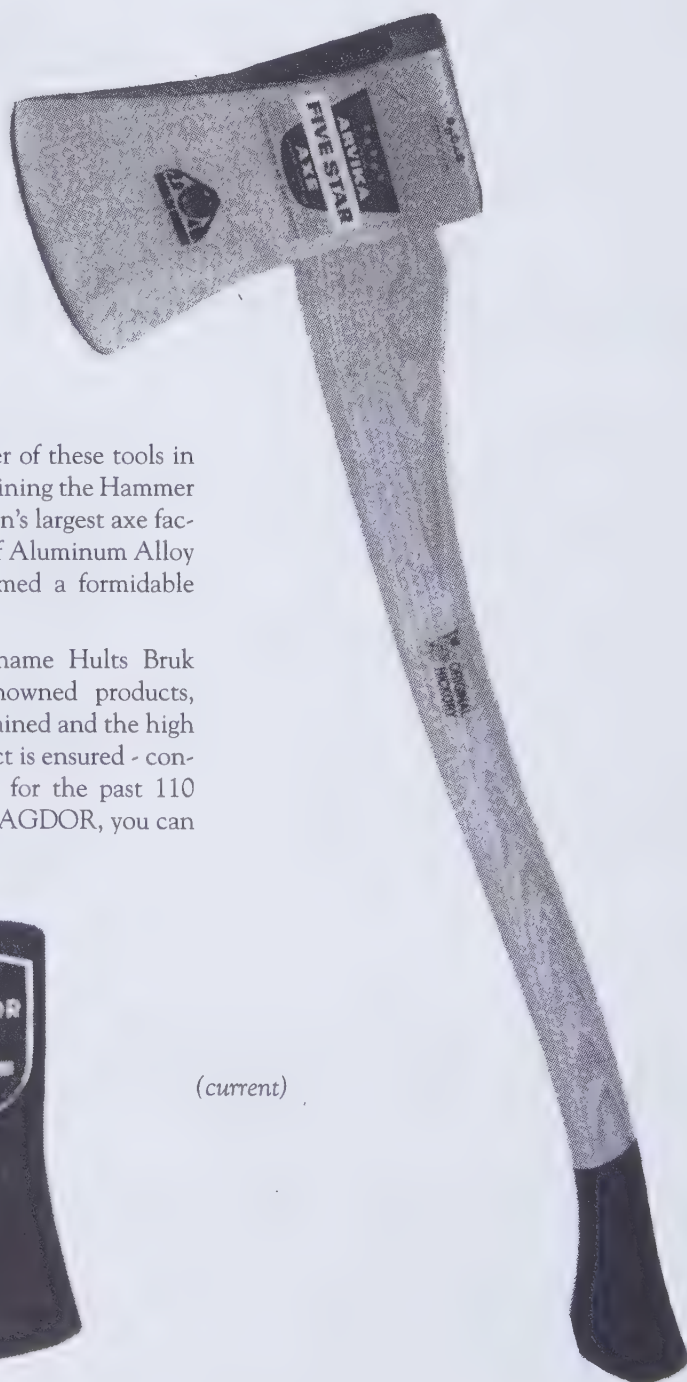
The plant is located at Aby and employs 80 full time axe makers and they manufacture a million high quality tools each year. If you have heard the trade name AGDOR, you would not have to question the unchanging quality over the 100 different patterns and weights shipped worldwide by this famous old company.

The patented handle mounting method, "AGDORFIX" used since 1958 is world renowned. One of the newest patterns available is the fully polished 4-1/2 pound axe ARVIKA 5 STAR. A beauty to behold, this axe is designed for hardwood forest work and is rapidly becoming popular with the "contest gang" at world competitions.

After 1945, the famous newsprint giant Holmen were owners of the company, along with their own steel mill. In 1989, another well-known and important Swedish conglomerate took over the Hults Bruk operation. This new owner is the Hasselfors Group and they have joined the axe factory together with their famous Hammer and Striking Tool Factory, Tors Hammare AB.

It is the leading maker of these tools in Sweden, and by combining the Hammer operation with Sweden's largest axe factory, and a new line of Aluminum Alloy Tools, they have formed a formidable tool corporation.

Of course, the name Hults Bruk and their world renowned products, AGDOR, are still retained and the high quality of their product is ensured - continuing as they have for the past 110 years. When you buy AGDOR, you can buy no better axe.



(current)



SWEDISH AXE MAKERS Cont.

A.B. Sater

A.B. Sater was one of Sweden's largest makers and a subsidiary of Odelberg & Olson, Steel Manufacturers. No dates are available but I have traced them back to 1900 and I have seen the product since World War II. This was a fabulous operation, making the largest "program" of patterns, both traditional and contemporary with beautiful workmanship, of any company of the time. The list of medals and honors from around the world was impressive.

Gransfors Bruk

Gransfors Bruk, of Bergsjö, commenced business around the turn of the century. They are actually manufacturers of the West Coast's popular label BLACK KING from the wholesale of Gus Hjukstrom.



GRÄNSFORS BRUKS AB



Gransfors Axes

Urafors

Urafors, operated from about 1860 and lasted 100 years, approximately.

Korlefors Bruk

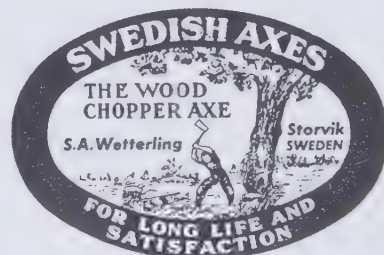
Korlefors Bruk, a relatively modern maker (but fine quality) lasted about 50 years, from 1916.

Arvika

Arvika, another famous Swedish name, specialized in modern American patterns for the export market. As with so many, the plant was forced to close sometime after 1950. Their name is still around, however, as Hults Bruk offers a 5 lb. "racing axe," ARVIKA 5-STAR, fully polished and popular with the men who enter the logging and chopping contests all over the world.

S.A. Wetterling

S.A. Wetterling, another fine company still making top quality axes, is said to have been conceived on New Year's Eve, 1880.





Various Swedish axes.

JÄRN

HANDLAREN
ORGAN FOR
SVERIGES
JÄRNHANDLARE
FÖRBUND





CHAPTER 6

GENERAL AXE STORIES

Hammer Poll? Dogging Axe? Butcher's Cattle Killing Axe?

Depending on where you lived, you would recognize this double purpose axe by the use to which it was generally put.

The advertisement shown was published by Campbell Bros., of St. John, New Brunswick, in logging areas. The tool proved very useful in constructing logging rafts and bridges, being ideal for trimming boards and planks and driving small spikes and wedges.

However, in cattle and farming districts, this pattern was known as a "killing" axe, used to stun the animals in preparation for slaughter.

In hundreds of other districts, it was called simply a "Hammer-Poll Axe" and its uses were unlimited.

Most axe factories over the years made these axes which weighed from 3-1/4 to 6 pounds. Jack Southcott, who has spent his entire working life with Welland Vale / True Temper (Canada) explained their method of manufacture: *"the bit and eye part was made by a four man team using a 2,300 degree F, furnace and a 5,000 pound drop hammer, the poll was formed separately and welded into the bit manually."*

By consulting old catalogues we can see that most makers offered hammer-poll axes, but chasing them at swap meets doesn't turn up many specimens. Can it be that these axes are still used and prized for thousands of chores?

(from 1919 advertisement)

Lumbermen

Here is something you need. An AXE and HAMMER combined. The poll or head of Axe is made of the highest grade of octagon cast steel, inserted and welded as shown. It is then properly tempered and will stand heavy driving and rough use of any kind.

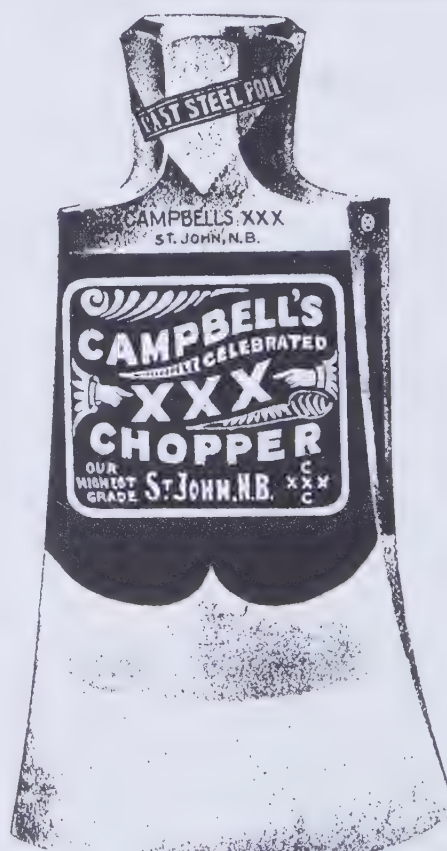
Eastern lumbermen are using this Axe entirely for chopping and driving Tree Wedges. Write us for prices and further particulars.

Campbell Bros.

ST. JOHN, N.B.

SOLE MAKERS

XXX Chopper and Edge Tools.



Patented July 1915.



MULTI-PURPOSE AXE TOOLS

The first extra use axe was, of course, the Poll-Axe, and today this is taken for granted. But the first axes were single-poll, either handheld or with a rudimentary helve (handle).

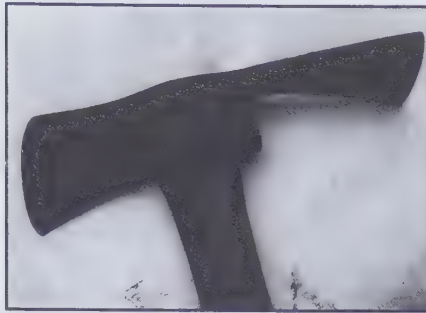
The second adaptation to the axe was the extra cutting edge added to form the double bit axe. These are well-known to archaeologists all over the world. The examples recovered in Crete (attributed to 1500 B.C. or earlier) were almost as perfect form as those we have known in America for over 100 years.

But then we have some new uses. The well-known fireaxe with its sharp pick, the factory made hatchets with claw for pulling nails (1845 approx.) and the Pulaski (ca. 1900). The latter was devised by a mechanical engineer, Ed Pulaski, and is in common use by forest-fire fighters in many parts of the world.

In the late 1920's Sager (Canadian Warren-Pink Co.), of St. Catharines, introduced a new "Fire Ranger's Combination Tool." The poll was elongated and drilled lengthwise. The items supplied with the axe were a shovel and a grub-hoe, which could be interchanged and fastened with a brass wing-nut.

While the Pulaski has survived, the combination tool died an early death. People who used it said it was dangerous as one had to use the sharpened axe, with blade exposed, when using the shovel or hoe. The parts were regularly lost in the bush, and the final problem was the shank of the hoe and shovel proved to be too weak for forest-fire work.

We must also remember the short-lived "Undercutter" as a dual purpose axe, but the "Combination Tool" is still in a class by itself.



The following is information found in the "Pulaski: The Man, The Tool" by Terry Brenner, 1984 and "The True Story of the Pulaski Fire Tool," by James B. Davis, 1986:

Forest Service Folklore holds that the Pulaski fire fighting tool was invented by Edward C. Pulaski, a hero of the Great Idaho Fire of 1910, who led his crew to safety when they became imperiled.

Pulaski was a ranger and tinker who struggled to solve equipment problems of the fledgling forestry profession. After fire fighting became an important function of forestry agencies, foresters used commonly available tools, such as the shovel, axe, hoe and rake. Seeking efficiency in their labors as well as transporting equipment via horseback, foresters began modifying common tools into combination tools. It's likely that working in a home workshop or blacksmith shops, the Pulaski, a combination axe and mattock, was born.

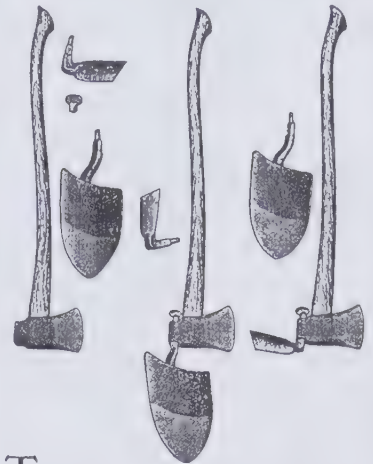
One version of events was that the "Pulaski" was developed as a tree-planting tool by other Forest Service employees (Joe Halm and Ed Holdomb), with a shovel as a third tool on the handle. The prototype was thought to be developed in Ed Pulaski's home blacksmith shop. Pulaski was fascinated by the potential of the tool, but abandoned the shovel and lengthened and reshaped the axe and mattock blade.

By 1920, the demand for the tool was so great, that a commercial tool company was asked to take over production.

Whether or not Ed Pulaski "Invented" the tool is open to debate. But he did develop, improve and popularize it.

Fire Ranger's Combination Tool

Axe, Shovel & Grub Hoe, Combined
(Patented)



THIS Tool is designed to occupy the least amount of space. Lightest in weight and all parts being interchangeable, is unsurpassed for use by Fire Rangers, and is being largely used as standard equipment by the Forestry Department of the British Columbia Government. The Steel parts are forged from the best quality of Tool Steel. Handle is made of select Hickory. The Shovel and Grub Hoe are fitted with a steel shank which can be quickly inserted into the poll of the Axe. Ends of shanks are threaded and all that is required to tighten is to screw on the special brass Wing Nut. No other tools are required.

Price List

Patent Combination Tool, complete - - - \$9.25 each
Net, P.O.B. Nelson, B.C., or St. Catharines, Ontario

PARTS	
Axe with Handle	\$5.50 each
Shovel	2.00 "
Grub Hoe	1.50 each
Brass Wing Nut	.25 "

NET WEIGHT (complete) 7½ lbs.

Sole Canadian Representatives:

THE NELSON IRON WORKS Limited

FOR SALE BY— B.C. and Alberta:
The Nelson Iron Works Limited, Nelson, B.C.
Central and Eastern Canada:
Canadian Warren-Pink Limited, St. Catharines, Ont.

(from 1928 advertisement)

THE "DIAMOND W"

The author has often been asked by collectors to identify axes (and other tools) showing the "Diamond W" trademark. This is no easy task when you realize there are at least five manufacturers who have used such a device as a label or true trademark. These include:

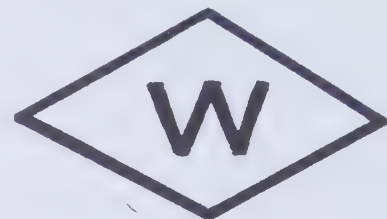
J.H. Williams Co., Brooklyn, New York

Joh. Wiebelhaus & Co., West Germany

Warwood Tool Co., Wheeling, WV
Warren Axe & Tool Co., Warren, PA
S.S. White & Co., Philadelphia, PA

It should be remembered that this "Diamond W" mark was used at different times for shorter or longer periods and on certain tools only, so there is no chart or guide available.

It is suggested, after having examined this mark on hundreds of tools, a collector, observing other clues on the tool, could correctly identify the maker about 50% of the time. "Experience is the best teacher."



"DIAMOND" AXES

For many years, various manufacturers and their advertising managers put great stock in the value of the name "Diamond" - stamped or labelled - to the best of their products.

The following is a list of firms which have been known to use the word "DIAMOND" as part of their brand name:



BLACK DIAMOND
 DIAMOND EDGE
 BLACK DIAMOND
 DIAMOND "A" BRAND

DIAMOND AXE
 DIAMOND BRAND
 BLACK DIAMOND

SUPER DIAMOND AXE
 GARRETT'S BLACK DIAMOND

DIAMOND A
 BLACK DIAMOND
 DIAMOND EDGE
 DIAMOND EDGE AXE

DIAMOND EDGE
 BLACK DIAMOND
 BLACK DIAMOND - W.M.
 THE DIAMOND AXE
 BLACK DIAMOND
 BLACK DIAMOND

- Walters Axe Co., Hull, Quebec
- Walters Axe Co., Hull, Quebec
- Baker & Hamilton, San Francisco, 1910
- The J.H. Ashdown Hardware Co., Winnipeg, Manitoba
(Made by Welland Vale Mfg. Co.)
- Emerson & Stevens, Oakland, Maine, 1865-1963
- Shantung, China (current)
- Welland Vale Mfg. Co., St. Catharines, Ontario
(for Lewis Bros. Hardware Co., Montreal, Quebec)
- The Arvika Axe & Tool Co., Sweden
- Welland Vale Mfg. Co., St. Catharines, Ontario
(for Wood, Vallance & Co., Hamilton, Ontario)
- Lippincott & Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- W.C. Edmunds & Co., Baltimore, Maryland
- Francis Axe Co., Buffalo
- Shapleigh Hardware Co., St. Louis 14.
(made by Mann Axe Co., Lewistown, Pennsylvania)
- Welland Vale Mfg. Co., St. Catharines, Ontario
- H.G. Lipscomb & Co., Wholesale Hardware, Nashville, Tennessee, 1891
- W. Woodard Hardware Co., Newton, New Jersey
- Rockland Howe Co., Rockland, Maine
- The Miller Hardware, Easton, Pennsylvania
- Kelly Axe & Tool Co., Charleston, West Virginia



FIRST AXE MAKER ON THE PACIFIC COAST

This title will raise the question - what axes? The Hudson's Bay Company was the major source of axes on the Pacific coast in the "early days," brought from England for trade with the Indians.

By the time the first city was started on Vancouver Island (Victoria, in 1843) the big U.S. axe factories were already on the scene and their products were available from Astoria, Oregon and San Francisco. It was not until the 1860's that Seattle had supply houses.

But the man who made the first axe on the north Pacific coast, in what is now British Columbia, was John Rogers Jewitt, known as "the Captive of Nootka," or "the Slave of Maquinna." He was making axes there in 1803.

Jewitt, the blacksmith (Armourer) on the sailing ship *Boston*, out of Boston, Massachusetts, was born May 21, 1783 in Boston, England, son of a blacksmith. But on September 3, 1802, when the *Boston* sailed from England on a trading venture to Nootka, on Vancouver's Island (as it was called at that time), young Jewitt was signed on at a reasonable \$30 per month.

The crossing of the Atlantic was "routine," finally arriving at Friendly Cove, March 12, 1803.

After some trading, which went well with the usually friendly and business-like natives, the stay was coming to an end. Unfortunately, Captain Salter insulted Maquinna, the Indian Chief. Next day, March 22nd, was black indeed.

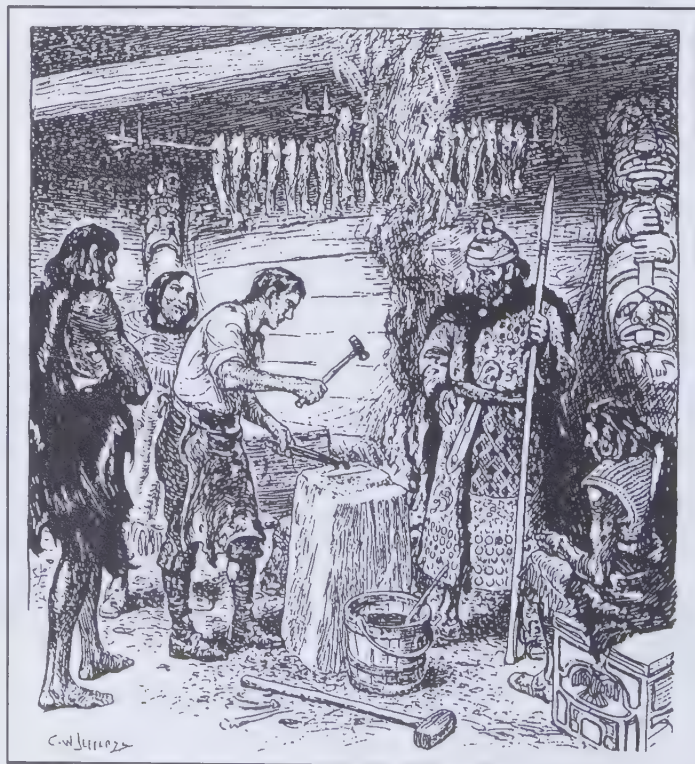
The natives "took" the ship and murdered all the crew except Jewitt and his helper, Thompson, both spared by the chief who recognized the blacksmith's value to him in making axes, knives and all other things he had observed Jewitt accomplishing at his forge.

So Jewitt set up his forge on land, stripped the ship of iron fittings and made his fine axes, knives, etc. for his grateful captors. This state of affairs

continued for two full years. During this time, John worked steadily and became a real favorite with Maquinna - despite the "sufferings and adventures" which he endured. But on July 19th, 1805, another trading brig, *Lydia*, approached Friendly Cove.

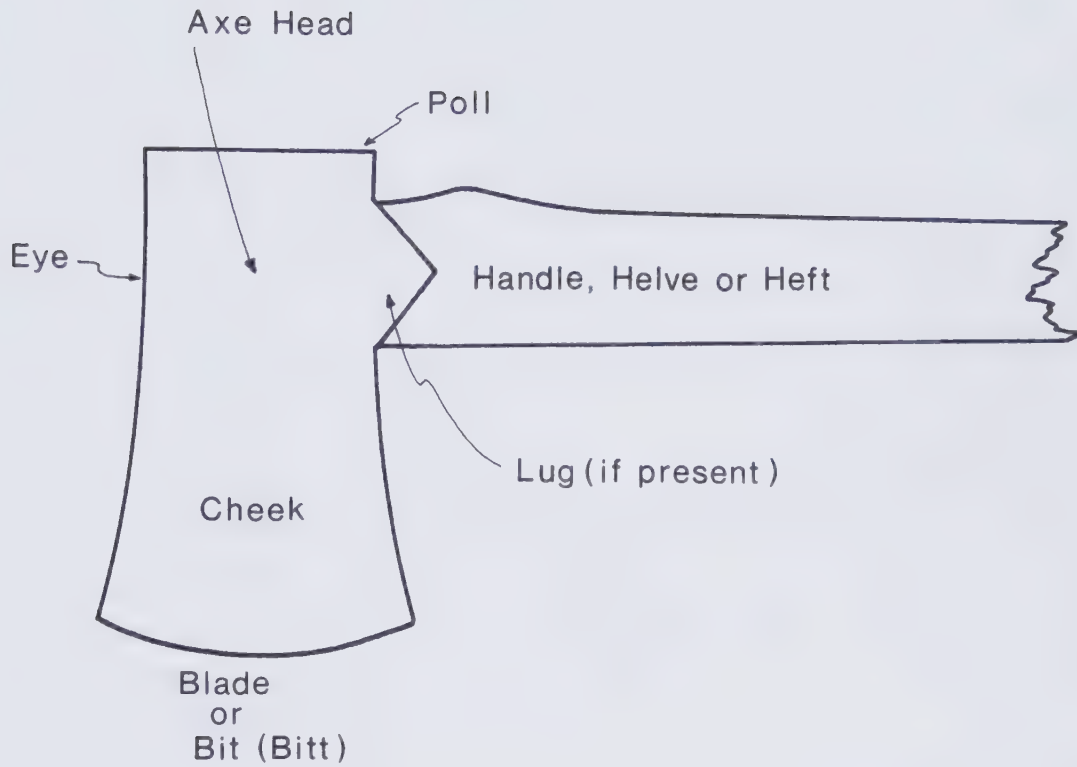
Quickly, John scribbled a note to the Captain detailing the events, murders, and slavery of the two remaining crew members. He begged the master to invite Maquinna on board, to capture and imprison him until the two slaves were released.

This was done, and so John Jewitt and John Thompson were rescued. This story is well documented, being published as a book by Jewitt in over 30 editions over the years. What isn't known is - where some of the famous old axes made at Nootka between 1803 and 1805 reside. Hopefully, one day, the author will find one of the first axes made on the Pacific Coast, 188 years ago.



GLOSSARY

Parts of the Axe



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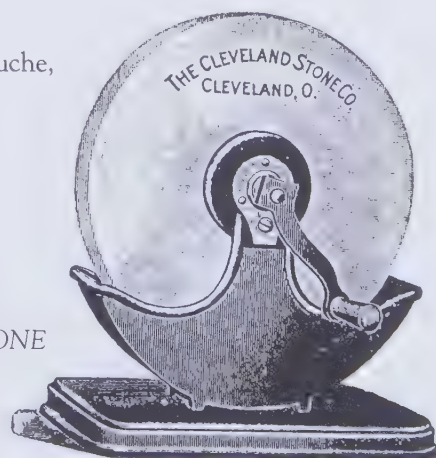
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Receipts from the first recorded Western Falling Axe sale, page 17,
printed with permission of the University of Washington, Nicole L. Bouche,
Pacific Northwest Curator, email - nb4@u.washington.edu.

FAMILY GRINDSTONE





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Chapter 3 - Queen Bee

Thanks to Lorelei & Jerry Billings for use of their files and their assistance.

Chapter 3 - Schwabacher's

Thanks to Mrs. Morton L. Schwabacher and Mr. Robert Ladd for help in researching this company.

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Thanks to Stephen W. White of Calgary, Alberta, professional researcher and writer, for his much appreciated assistance on the Warnock story.

APPENDIX 1

“Axe Labels We Remember”

Too Bad!

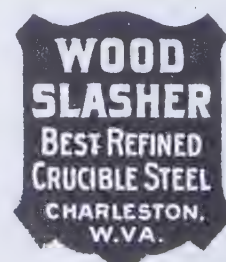
Yes, all aspects of living have changed through these dynamic 20th & 21st centuries. When axes were one of man's most needed tools, and that is as recently as the 1940's - chain saws were just an idea; not yet light enough or dependable for the work intended, so the axe was in a class by itself.

In America, almost 200 plants were producing these tools, all the way from “all handmade” to new “stamped-out” cast steel models. Competition was keen! The customer could choose from over 300 patterns in weights from 1/2 pound to 12 pounds.

This is where the advertising men came into the act. They conjured up exotic names from A-Z and produced labels in every color and shape. All this to capture the business at “point-of-sale.”

Who could resist the wonderful etched or embossed patterns on the gleaming new axe?

All too soon, we forget these good old days when one could go to a hardware or tool shop and choose from 50 different labels, from BLACK PRINCE to WORLD'S FINEST. The author has been gathering these names over the years - and at least on paper they shall be preserved.





APPENDIX 1

This appendix is arranged by date and title of source material (catalogues). Note that some label names appear in numerous locations and over a long period of time.

E = Exclusive M = Manufacturer C = Copyright W = Wholesaler P = Patented R = Retailer

AXE LABEL		MANUFACTURER	(Remarks)
1890 - J.H. Ashdown Hardware Co., Winnipeg, Manitoba (W & R)			
Broadaxes		J. Warnock & Co.	Galt, Ontario
H.H. WARREN		H.H. Warren?	
WELLAND VALE		Welland Vale	St. Catharines, Ontario
PARRY SOUND		Welland Vale	"
FOREST CITY		Welland Vale	"
ALTONA		Welland Vale	"
CHOPPERS TRUST		Welland Vale	"
HUDSON'S BAY		Welland Vale	"
BLACK PRINCE		Welland Vale	"
CANADIAN		Welland Vale	"
PRAIRIE CITY		Welland Vale	"
DIAMOND EDGE/SILVER STEEL		Francis Axe Co.	Buffalo, NY
CRITERION		Francis Axe Co.	"
LONDON		?	
KING OF THE WOODS		?	
MICHIGAN		Michigan Axe Co.	
CLIMAXe		Enterprize Mfg. Co.	Boston, MA
HICKORY WHACKER		Buffalo Axe Co.	Buffalo, NY
COLONIAL		Mann Edge Tool Co.	Mill Hall, PA
BALD EAGLE		Mann Edge Tool Co.	"

1900 - American Axe & Tool Co. (Giant Corporate Trust of Approx. 19 Makers, 1889-1921)

RED WARRIOR	C	Wm. Mann Jr. & Co.	
MARSHALL BROS.	C	?	(Glassport Plant, AA&T)
RED RIDGE	C	American Axe & Tool	(Glassport Plant, AA&T)
STRONG & CO.	C	?	
CAST STEEL	C	Thomas R. Mann	(Philadelphia Plant, AA&T)
LIPPINCOTTS	C	Lippincott & Co.	(Pittsburg Plant, AA&T)
BLOOD'S CHAMPION Axe	C	H. Knickerbacker	Ballston, NY
STEWART'S	C	?	
505 HAND MADE	C	Robert Mann	(Mill Hall, PA, plant of AA&T)
FOREST CLIPPER	C	American Axe & Tool	(Glassport Plant, AA&T)

1900 - Sloss & Scott, San Francisco (W)

ROGERS		?	
COLLINS		Collins & Co.	Hartford, CT

1900 - The James Smart Mfg. Co. (M)

WINDSOR	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	Brockville, Ontario
CANADIAN	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	"
HEATHER	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	"
			("The Keenest Cutter on the Market")
WEDGE	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	Brockville, Ontario
HALF WEDGE	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	"



AXE LABEL		MANUFACTURER	(Remarks)
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1903 - The James Smart Mfg. Co. (M)

SOLID CAST STEEL	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	Brockville, Ontario
1000 ISLANDS	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	"
333	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	"
GATINEAU	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	"
EAGLE	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	"
CROWN	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	"
BEAVER	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	"
OAK LEAF	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	"
FOREST KING	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	"

1905 - Marshall-Wells Hardware - U.S.A. (W & R)

ZENITH	E,C	Various Manufacturers	
OUR HAND MADE	E	Various Manufacturers	
MESABA	E	?	
M.W.H. CO.	E	?	
PERFECT		Kelly	
RED RIDGE		American Axe & Tool Co.	Glassport, PA
YOUNG AMERICA		American Axe & Tool Co.	"
DOUBLE-REFINED		Lippincott & Co.	Pittsburg, PA
LIPPINCOTT		Lippincott & Co.	"
DUNN'S		Dunn Edge Tool Co.	Oakland, ME
D.R. BARTON		D.R. Barton	Rochester, NY
NORTHERN KING	E	Various Manufacturers	
HARTFORD	E	The Hartford Axe Co.	Hartford, CT
MANN'S CAST STEEL		Thos. R. Mann Co.	Mill Hall, PA
UNDERHILL'S		Underhill Edge Tool Co.	Nashua, NH
HAND MADE		Welland Vale Mfg. Co.	St. Catharines, Ontario
HUNT'S SUPERIOR		Douglas Axe Mfg. Co.	East Douglas, MA (American Axe Corp.)

1906 - Wood, Valance & Leggat Co., Hamilton and Vancouver, Canada (W)

W. & B. CO.		? (Whitman & Barnes ?)	
UNDERHILL	C	Underhill Edge Tool Co.	Boston, MA
C. HAMMOND	C	Hammond	Philadelphia, PA
WARNOCK'S EXTRA REFINED	C	J. Warnock & Co.	Galt, Ontario
ROYAL OAK	C	Toledo Tool Co.	Toledo, OH
BANNER	C	Toledo Tool Co.	"
TOLEDO BLADE	C	Toledo Tool Co.	"
"Maple Leaf" logo	C	A.S. Whiting Mfg. Co.	("St. Catharines, Canada"?)
W.V. SPECIAL	C	Welland Vale	St. Catharines, Ontario
NORTH STAR	C	?	Cleveland, OH
RIXFORD	C	?	St. Paul, Quebec
UNCLE SAM	C	?	
GARRETT'S BLACK DIAMOND	C	Welland Vale	(Hand Made)
KELLY STANDARD	C	Kelly Axe Mfg. Co.	Alexandria, IN
COPPER KING	C	Kelly Axe Mfg. Co.	"
BEST MADE AXE	C	Kelly Axe Mfg. Co.	" (W.C. Kelly Flint Edge Temper)
COLUMBIAN	P	Kelly Axe Mfg. Co.	Alexandria, IN
FAYETTE R. PLUMB	C	Fayette R. Plumb	Philadelphia, PA



AXE LABEL		MANUFACTURER	(Remarks)
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1910 - E.C. Atkins & Co., Inc (W)

KELLY'S STANDARD		Kelly Axe Mfg. Co.	Alexandria, WV
BEST MADE AXE		Kelly Axe Mfg. Co.	"
AAA SILVER STEEL (<i>Atkins Always Ahead</i>)	E	?	(Mfd. expressly for Pacific Coast trade)
TYEE	E	?	(Mfd. expressly for Pacific Coast trade)
Broadaxes 6 - 10-1/2 lbs.		G.H. Moore	Toledo, OH

1910 - Baker & Hamilton, San Francisco (W)

BLACK DIAMOND		?	W.C. Edmunds, Baltimore, MD
LIGHTNING		?	
CELEBRATED CHAMPION		?	
SUNRISE E PAYSON'S CLAW		?	
SUPERIOR		East Douglas Mfg. Co.	East Douglas, MA
TEN EYCK'S		Ten Eyck Mfg. Co.	Glassport, PA
NIAGARA		Manhattan Axe Co.	New York

1910 - The James Smart Mfg. Co. (M)

SMART'S "G" BEVEL	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	Brockville, Ontario
WHITTAM	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	"
SMART'S SUPERIOR	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	"

1910 - Spiller Axe & Tool Co., Oakland, Maine (M)

SPILLER RAZOR EDGE	C	Spiller	
PREMIER	C	Spiller	("Hammered Axe")
VICTORY	C	Spiller	("Fine Hammered Axe")
EASY CUT	C	Spiller	
CHOPPERS' CHOICE	C	Spiller	("Fine Hammered Axe")

1910 - Welland Vale Mfg. Co. Ltd., St. Catharines, Ontario (M)

WESTERN CLIPPER	C	Welland Vale	(Overcoat Steel)
MODEL	C	Welland Vale	(Forged bevel, not ground)
PRINCESS LOUISE	C	Welland Vale	(Ground Thin, Triple Inserted Steel)
ALL STEEL AXE	C	Welland Vale	(Triple Overcoat Steel)
WELLAND VALE SPECIAL	C	Welland Vale	(Double Overcoat Steel)
CHOPPERS' TRUST	C	Welland Vale	(Extra Refined Silver Steel)
CANADIAN-MONTREAL	C	Welland Vale	(Overcoat or Inserted as ordered)
CANADIAN-QUEBEC	C	Welland Vale	(Overcoat or Inserted as ordered)
SILVER STEEL AXE	C	Welland Vale	(Full Polish)
CROWN AXE	C	Welland Vale	
VICTORIA AXE	C	Welland Vale	
RAZOR EDGE	C	Welland Vale	(Triple Overcoat)
ONTARIO CHAMPION	C	Welland Vale	(Double Overcoat)
GOLDEN STAR AXE	C	Welland Vale	(Curved Bit, Inserted Steel)
DAMASCUS TEMPER	C	Welland Vale	(All Hand Made)
BLACK DIAMOND	C	Welland Vale	(All Hand Made) (Another Black Diamond!)
PREMIER	C	Welland Vale	
ROYAL OAK	C	Welland Vale	
THE BERGHAUS AXE	C	Welland Vale	(Made in Canada for Paul Berghaus & Co., Goteborg, Sweden)
FOREST KING	C	Welland Vale	
CAN'AXE	C	W.V./Canada Axe & Harvest Tool Co.	Montreal, Quebec
SIMPSON'S SPECIAL	C	Welland Vale	(Made for Robert Simpson Co. Ltd.)



AXE LABEL		MANUFACTURER	(Remarks)
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1912 - American Axe & Tool Co.

JAMESTOWN	C	E.F. Carpenter & Co. (Jamestown Axe Co.)	(Jamestown, NY, Plant of AA&T)
KENT'S	C	?	
FULL CONCAVE	C	Lippincott & Co.	(Pittsburg Plant)
J. CRIPPEN	C	?	
AMERICANA	C	American Axe & Tool	(Pittsburg Plant)
BLODGETT AXE	C	?	
THE DEFENDER AXE	C	American Axe & Tool	(Glassport Plant)
THE MOUNTAINEER	C	American Axe & Tool	(Glassport Plant)
THE GOWANDA AXE	C	American Axe & Tool	(Glassport Plant)
CLIMAx	C	American Axe & Tool	(Glassport Plant)
UNDERHILL'S	C	Underhill Edge Tool Co.	(Nashua, HH, Plant of AA&T)
WEDGE	C	Underhill Edge Tool Co.	"
PEERLESS AXE	C	Powell Tool Co.	(Cleveland Plant of AA&T)
THE NIAGARA	C	Manhattan Axe Co.	(New York, NY, Plant of AA&T)

1912 - Wood, Valance & Leggat Co., Vancouver, British Columbia (W)

CLIMAx		Enterprize Mfg. Co.	Boston, MA
RED RIDGE		American Axe & Tool Co.	Glassport, PA
THE RED AXE		Welland Vale	St. Catharines, Ontario
BLACK PRINCE		Welland Vale	"
THE MODEL AXE		Welland Vale	"
OUR BEST AXE "Flint Temper"		Welland Vale	"
LION		Welland Vale	"
TASMAN AXE		Underhill Edge Tool Co.	Nashua, NH
SUPERIOR		James H. Mann	Lewistown, PA
LOGGERS PRIDE		James H. Mann	"
SUPERIOR CAST STEEL		Robert Mann	Mill Hall, PA
505 HAND MADE		Robert Mann	"
BEST AXE MADE "Flint Edge Temper"		W.C. Kelly Mfg. Co.	Charleston, WV
"Arm & Hammer" logo		Campbell Bros.	St. John, New Brunswick
BEST CAST STEEL		L.A. Sayre & Son	Newark, NJ
SOLID STEELED		"Brade's Co."	Birmingham, England
1837		L. & I.J. White Co.	Buffalo, NY
L. & I.J. WHITE		L. & I.J. White Co.	"
BRAD'S CO.		Wm. Hunt & Sons	Birmingham, England

1914 - The James Smart Mfg. Co. (M)

OFFICIAL BOY SCOUT	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	Brockville, Ontario
444 HAND FORGED	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	"
THE ENGLISH AXE	P	James Smart Mfg. Co.	"

1914 - Gibson's Ltd., Vancouver, British Columbia (W & R)

GORILLA	E,C	Brade's Co.	(Made in Birmingham, England Name stamped and paper label)
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AXE LABEL		MANUFACTURER	(Remarks)
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1914 - American Axe & Tool Co.

RED JACKET	C	Manhattan Axe Co.	(New York, NY Plant of AA&T)
RED MANN	C	American Axe & Tool	(Glassport Plant)
KING OF THE FOREST	C	American Axe & Tool	(Glassport Plant)
FOREST CLIPPER	C	American Axe & Tool	(Glassport Plant)
AMOSKEAG AXE	C	Amoskeag Axe Co.	(Nashua, NH, Plant of AA&T)
AROOSTOOK WEDGE	C	Amoskeag Axe Co.	"
YOUNG AMERICA	C	Amoskeag Axe Co.	"
HURD'S CAST STEEL	C	Johnsonville Axe Mfg. Co.	(Johnsonville, NY, Plant of AA&T)
HUNT'S	C	Douglas Axe Mfg. Co.	(East Douglas, MA, Plant of AA&T) ("Manufactured by W. Hunt" appeared on most Douglas axes as a tribute to the forerunner and pioneer axe-maker, Oliver Hunt (ca. 1800) and his son, Warren (ca. 1830) - see CHRON. Vol. XXV, Sept., 1972, p. 43, by John S. Kebabian)
FRANCIS	C	Francis Axe Co.	(Buffalo, NY, Plant of AA&T)
PHANTOM BEVEL		Lippincott & Co.	(Pittsburg Plant AA&T)
CHOPPERS PRIDE		Lippincott & Co.	(Pittsburg Plant AA&T)
CRITERION		Lippincott & Co.	(Pittsburg Plant AA&T)
C. JAY		Lippincott & Co.	(Pittsburg Plant AA&T)
DIAMOND "X"		Lippincott & Co.	(Pittsburg Plant AA&T)
A. TEN EYCK		Lippincott & Co.	(Pittsburg Plant AA&T)
THE ROMER AXE		Romer Axe Co.	(In 1916 the Romer Co. was purchased by Warren Axe & Tool)

1917 -Broderick & Bascom Loggers Supply Co., Seattle, WA (R)

B&B AXES	C	Fayette R. Plumb	Charleston, WV
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1919 -Gibson's Ltd., Vancouver, British Columbia (W & R)

GORILLA	E,C	Brade's Co.	(Made in Birmingham, England Name stamped and paper label)
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1919 - Marshall-Wells Hardware - U.S.A. (W & R)

M.W. CO. HAND MADE	E,C	?	("Deep Stamped")
CHAMPION		?	
MARSWELL'S	C	?	
CLIMAXe		Enterprize Mfg. Co.	Boston, MA

1920 - Clyde Equipment Co. (CECO), Portland, Oregon (W & R)

CECO	E	(All hand forged axes. Sold Marshall-Wells products. Stamped "CECO" only)	
M.W. CO.		Fayette R. Plumb	for Marshall-Wells
NORTHERN KING		?	for Marshall-Wells
ZENITH		?	for Marshall-Wells

1920 - Hofius Equipment Co., Portland, Oregon (W)

SAGER		Warren Axe & Tool	Warren, PA
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AXE LABEL		MANUFACTURER	(Remarks)
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1920 - Stewart Bros. Co., Portland, Oregon (W)

STEWART	E	Warren Axe & Tool	Warren, PA (<i>Warren name deeply stamped</i>)
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1920 - J.H. Ashdown Hardware Co., Winnipeg, Manitoba (W & R)

DIAMOND "A" Brand	E	Welland Vale	St. Catharines, Ontario
AMERICAN Axe		American Axe & Tool Co.	Glassport, PA
RED JACKET		American Axe & Tool Co.	"
UNDERHILL		Underhill Tool Co.	Nashua, NH
L.A. SAYRE & CO.		L.A. Sayre & Co.	Newark, NJ
SAFETY SPORTS AXE		Marble's	Gladstone, MI
SUPERIOR		Western Tool Co.	Gladstone, MI
SMART		Jas. A. Smart Mfg. Co.	Brockville, Ontario

1921 - FB. Mallory Co., Portland, Oregon (W)

LOGGER'S PRIDE		James H. Mann	Lewistown, PA
MONARCH		Warren Axe & Tool	Warren, PA
			(<i>Top quality product hand hammered, hand tempered and hand ground</i>)
SAGER		Warren Axe & Tool	Warren, PA

1923 - Shapleigh Hardware Co., St. Louis, Missouri (W)

DIAMOND EDGE	C	Various Manufacturers through the years.	
BLACK PRINCE	C	Various Manufacturers through the years.	
BRIDGE	C	Various Manufacturers through the years.	
MOUND CITY	C	Various Manufacturers through the years.	
BLACK WONDER	C	Various Manufacturers through the years.	
THE PERFECT AXE		Kelly Axe Mfg. Co.	Charleston, WV
DOUBLE REFINED		Lippincott Co.	Glassport, PA
LIVE OAK	C	Various Manufacturers through the years.	

1923 - Titan Mill & Mine Supply, Seattle, Washington (W)

SAGER		Warren Axe & Tool	Warren, PA
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1924 - Simson, Balkwill & Co., Ltd., Vancouver, British Columbia (W)

SAGER SPECIAL PROCESS AXE		Canadian Warren Axe & Tool	St. Catharines, Ontario
THE ST. CLAIR PERFECT TEMPER	E	?	
SMARTS-1000 ISLANDS		Jas. Smart Mfg. Co.	Brockville, Ontario
BLACK PRINCE		Welland Vale	St. Catharines, Ontario

1925 - W.J. Brett Co., Portland, Oregon (W)

PLUMB		Fayette R. Plumb	Charleston, WV
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AXE LABEL		MANUFACTURER	(Remarks)
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1925 - Marshall-Wells Hardware-Canada (W & R)

D.R. BARTON		D.R. Barton Axe Co.	Rochester, NY
RIVAL		Welland Vale Mfg. Co.	St. Catharines, Ontario
LION		Welland Vale Mfg. Co.	"
BLACK PRINCE		Welland Vale Mfg. Co.	"
PLUMB		Fayette R. Plumb	Charleston, WV
BERGHAUS		Sweden	
NORTHERN KING	E,C	Various Manufacturers	
EVANSVILLE		Evansville Tool Works	Evansville, IN
XXX CHOPPER		Campbell Bros.	St. John, New Brunswick

1925 - Wood, Alexander & James; Hamilton and Toronto, Ontario (R & W)

WELLAND VALE		Welland Vale	St. Catharines, Ontario
RIVAL		Welland Vale	"
LION		Welland Vale	"
GARRETT'S BLACK DIAMOND		Welland Vale	" (Hand Made)
ROYAL OAK		Welland Vale	St. Catharines, Ontario
BLACK KNIGHT		Welland Vale	"
CHIPPER		Welland Vale	"
RED AXE		Welland Vale	"
BLACK PRINCE		Welland Vale	"
WELLAND VALE CROWN		Welland Vale	"
BRAD'S		Wm. Hunt & Sons, The Brades	Birmingham, England
WAJAxe	E,C	?	("house brand," not to be confused with "WAJAxe forest and fire-fighting equip." which did not make or sell axes.)
COX	E,C	?	
STERLING	E,C	?	
NORTH STAR	E,C	?	
L. & I.J. WHITE & CO.		L. & I.J. White & Co.	Nashua, NH
MARBLE'S		Marble	Gladstone, MI
1000 ISLANDS		James Smart Mfg. Co.	Brockville, Ontario
THE CANADIAN AXE		James Smart Mfg. Co.	"

1928 - Welland Vale Mfg. Co. Ltd., St. Catharines, Ontario (M)

BLACK PRINCE	C	Welland Vale	(Top of the line product)
WESTERN CLIPPER	C	Welland Vale	
ABERDEEN	C	Welland Vale	(Approx. 1930 - company purchased by American Fork & Hoe, of Charleston, WV, but did not change name to True Temper Canada Ltd. until 1951)
ALL-STEEL	C	Welland Vale	
W.V. SPECIAL	C	Welland Vale	(Stamped-no label)
THE MODEL AXE	C	Welland Vale	
THE HAND MADE	C	Welland Vale	
LION	C	Welland Vale	
RED BIRD	C	Welland Vale	
BLUE BIRD	C	Welland Vale	
WITHAM	C	Welland Vale	
THE RED AXE	C	Welland Vale	
BEDFORD SUPERIOR	C	Welland Vale	
CHIPPER	C	Welland Vale	



AXE LABEL		MANUFACTURER	(Remarks)
CLOVER LEAF	C	Welland Vale	
GARRETT'S BLACK DIAMOND	C	Welland Vale	
STAG HEAD	C	Welland Vale	
RIXFORD CLIPPER CURVE	C	Welland Vale	
CARIBOU	C	Welland Vale	
PRAIRIE CITY	C	Welland Vale	(Made for and featured by Ashdown's, Winnipeg)
SUNSET	C	Welland Vale	(featured brand by "Mac & Mac", Vancouver)

1930 - Emerson & Stevens Mfg. Co. Inc., Oakland, Maine (M)

PIONEER	E,C	Emerson & Stevens Mfg. Co.	
THE DIAMOND AXE	E,C	Emerson & Stevens	
THE LUMBERMAN'S PRIDE	E,C	Emerson & Stevens	(wedge, Hand Made)
VICTORY AXE	E,C	Emerson & Stevens	
FOREST KING	E,C	Emerson & Stevens	
THE PINETREE	E,C	Emerson & Stevens	("All-Hammered")
THE WETMORE AXE	E,C	Emerson & Stevens	(Silver Steel)
THE HUNTERS AXE	E,C	Emerson & Stevens	("Special Made")

1930 - Thos. McAvity, St. John, New Brunswick (R & W)

WORLD	E	?	(Probably Campbell's)
CAMPBELL'S XXX CHOPPER		Campbell Bros.	St. John, New Brunswick
1000 ISLANDS		Jas. Smart Mfg. Co.	Brockville, Ontario
MANN'S IXL		?	
BLANKHORN CHIEF (B.C.)		Blankhorn Mfg. Co.	Canning, Nova Scotia

1930-40 - McLennan, McFeely & Prior, Vancouver, British Columbia (W & R)

BLACK PRINCE		Welland Vale	St. Catharines, Ontario
LION		Welland Vale	"
CHIPPER		Welland Vale	"
THE SUNSET AXE	E	Welland Vale	" (This axe was featured as a "house brand by "Mac & Mac" but also sold by the manufacturer with the same label)
SAGER		Canadian Warren Axe & Tool	St. Catharines, Ontario
CLIMAXe AXE		Enterprise Mfg. Co.	Boston, MA
BURGESS		Burgess Axe Mfg. Co.	Aylmer, Quebec
THE ENGLISH AXE		Jas. Smart Mfg. Co.	Brockville, Ontario
1000 ISLANDS		Jas. Smart Mfg. Co.	"
PLUMB		Plumb	St. Louis, MO
TERMINAL CITY AXE	E	?	
BRAD'S CO.		W. Hunt & Sons Ltd.	Birmingham, England
ESTWING		Estwing Mfg. Co.	Rockford, IL

1930's - Welland Vale Mfg. Co. Ltd., St. Catharines, Ontario (M)

FALLS CITY AXE	C	Kelly Axe & Tool of Canada	St. Catharines, Ontario
		(These labels were used after the Kelly Co. purchased Welland Vale)	
SUPERIOR AXE	C	Kelly Axe & Tool of Canada	
KELLY STANDARD	C	Kelly Axe & Tool of Canada	(Hand Made)
KELLY TRUE TEMPER	C	Kelly Axe & Tool of Canada	



AXE LABEL		MANUFACTURER	(Remarks)
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1935 - Honeyman Hardware Co., Portland, Oregon (W)

SAGER		Warren Axe & Tool	Warren, PA
KELLY WORLD'S FINEST		Kelly Axe Mfg. Co.	Charleston, WV
KELLY'S FLINT EDGE		Kelly Axe Mfg. Co.	"
RED ROVER		?	
DEMON		?	
CHAMPION		?	
PANTHER	E	?	

1935 - Warren Axe & Tool Co., Warren, Pennsylvania (M)

THE SAGER SPECIAL CHEMICAL AXE	P	Warren Axe & Tool	Warren, PA
		(Sager chemical process axe-all hand made-"Best Axe Made"-Top of the Line)	
THE WARREN AXE	P	Warren Axe & Tool	Warren, PA
OLD FAITHFUL	P	Warren Axe & Tool	"
FOREST KING AXE	P	Warren Axe & Tool	"
MONARCH	P	Warren Axe & Tool	"
WARREN CELEBRATED	P	Warren Axe & Tool	"
THE BODARC AXE	P	Warren Axe & Tool	"
SILVER STEEL AXE	P	Warren Axe & Tool	" (Keen Cutting Edge)
HIAWATHA	P	Warren Axe & Tool	Warren, PA
THE MATCHLESS AXE	P	Warren Axe & Tool	"
THE ROMER AXE	P	Romer Axe Co. Dunkirk, NY (manufactured at the subsidiary plant purchased in 1916)	
LAKE CITY	P	Romer Axe Co.	"
UNCLE SAM'S BEST	P	Romer Axe Co.	"

1940 - Marshall-Wells Hardware-Canada (W & R)

ZENITH	E,C	Sometimes made by Welland Vale	(Small Letters Logo)
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1940 - Somerset Axe & Tool Co., Ltd., St. John, New Brunswick (M)

NORTH STAR	C	St. John, New Brunswick	(owned by Murphy Bros.)
BLACK HUNTER	C	"	
BLACK CHIEF	C	"	
SOMERSET	C	"	

1948 - Gordon & Belyea Limited, Vancouver, British Columbia (W)

SAGER		Canadian Warren-Pink Mfg. Co.	St. Catharines, Ontario
SKOOKUM		James Smart Mfg. Co.	Brockville, Ontario
SIGNAL		Welland Vale	St. Catharines, Ontario
WELLAND VALE		Welland Vale	"
LION		Welland Vale	"
CHIPPER		Welland Vale	"
PLUMB		Plumb	
PLUMB DOUBLE LIFE		Plumb	
444		James Smart Mfg. Co.	Brockville, Ontario
THE ENGLISH AXE		James Smart Mfg. Co.	"



AXE LABEL		MANUFACTURER	(Remarks)
ENDURANCE		James Smart Mfg. Co.	"
1000 ISLANDS		James Smart Mfg. Co.	"
BOSTON		Underhill Edge Tool Co.	Nashua, NH
SAYRE'S		L.A. Sayre & Co.	Newark, NJ

1948 - Snow & Nealley Co. (M)

OUR BEST AXE	C	Snow & Nealley Co.	Bangor, MA (<i>All Hand Made</i>)
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1950 - Marshall-Wells Hardware-Canada (W & R)

ZENITH	E,C	Sometimes made by Welland Vale	(<i>Capital Letters Logo</i>)
CHARCOAL AXE		Walters Axe Co.	Hull, Quebec
SAGER		Canadian Warren-Pink Mfg. Co.	St. Catharines, Ontario
JUBILEE	C	Sweden	?
WALTERS		Walters Axe Co.	Hull, Quebec
SKOGSMANNEN		Sweden	?

1950 - Walters Axe Co. Ltd., Hull, Quebec (M)

BLACK DIAMOND	P	Walters Axe Co.	Hull, Quebec (<i>Their "top of the line" product</i>)
B-H PULP-WOOD	P	Walters Axe Co.	Hull, Quebec
IMPROVED PULP-WOOD	P	Walters Axe Co.	(U.S. branch, Ogdensburg, NY)
OUR BEST	P	Walters Axe Co.	Hull, Quebec
OTTAWA CHIEF	P	Walters Axe Co.	"
DIAMOND EDGE	P	Walters Axe Co.	"
CHARCOAL TEMPER	P	Walters Axe Co.	"
CHAIN SAW AXE	P	Walters Axe Co.	"
PULASKI		Walters Axe Co.	"
BOSS OF THE WOODS	P	Walters Axe Co.	"
MIDGET	P	Walters Axe Co.	"
FLECK BROS.	E	Walters Axe Co.	(<i>All axes sold in B.C. by Fleck Bros. were stamped at the factory with "Fleck Bros.", also Walters Black Diamond</i>)

1951 - Welland Vale Mfg. Co. Ltd., St. Catharines, Ontario (M)

KELLY TRUE TEMPER	C	Welland Vale	(<i>in 1951 commenced using "True Temper" stamp on axes along with "Welland Vale"</i>)
KELLY WORLD'S FINEST	C	Welland Vale	(<i>Full Polish</i>)
SIGNAL	C	Welland Vale	(<i>product of Montreal plant</i>)
CANAXE	C	Welland Vale	(<i>product of Montreal plant</i>)
OUR BEST	C	Welland Vale	



Adirondack Pattern (ca. 1927)



"House Brand" of Pacific Hardware & Steel Co. of San Francisco

(ca. 1900)
Fireman's Axe



Maine Pattern



(ca. 1925)



(ca. 1920)

APPENDIX 2

List of Axe Makers of the U.S.A.



List of Axe Makers of the U.S.A.

From approximately 1850 to 1968, including:

Names of makers in BOLD print appear in main text.

- J - Jobbers
- M - Manufacturers
- R - Retailers
- W - Wholesalers
- B/S - Blacksmiths

ACKERMAN & JOHNS Mfg. Co.	(M)	Bangor, ME
ADAMS, Peter	(B/S)	Lancaster, PA
(1800's) ADAMS Tool Co.	(M)	
ALBERTSON Co.	(M)	Poughkeepsie, NY
ALTHOUSE, Isaa	(B/S)	Columbus, OH
AMERICAN Axe & Tool Mfg. Co., The	(M)	Glassport, PA (1889-1921)
AMERICAN Fork & Hoe Mfg. Co., The	(M)	Charleston, WV (1930-49)
AMERICAN Saw & Tool Works, The	(M)	Chicago, IL
AMERICAN Tool Co., The	(M)	Buffalo, NY
AMOSKEAG Axe Co.	(M)	Dunkirk, NY (1879)
ANGELL, E.	(M)	Newport, NY
ARNOLD, Ephraim	(M)	New York, NY
ATHA Machine & Tool Co.	(M)	Newark, NJ
ATKINS, E.C. & Co. Inc., The	(M,J,W)	Indianapolis, IN
ATKINSON, Jos.	(M)	Buxton, ME
AULD & CONGER Co.	(M)	Cleveland, OH
AVERY, Samuel	(B/S)	Charlemont, ME
BAILEY & Co.	(M)	Limestone, PA
BAIRD, Sam.	(M)	Limestone, PA
BAKER & HAMILTON	(W,J)	Mormon Is. San Francisco, CA (ca.1853)
BAKER, HAMILTON & PACIFIC Co.	(W,J)	Mormon Is. San Francisco, CA (ca.1853)
BAKER, HOLMES & BROWN	(M)	Baltimore, MD
BARNETT, Thos.	(M)	Philadelphia, PA
BARTON Company, THE D.R.	(M)	Rochester, NY, (Est. 1832)
BECK, Wm.	(M)	Philadelphia, PA
BEARDSBY & Co.	(M)	New York, NY
BEARDSLEY, B.R.	(M)	Elmira, NY (1859)
BEATTY, Wm., & Sons	(M)	Chester, PA
BENJAMIN, J.S.	(M)	Dayton, OH
BENJAMIN, Timothy	(M)	New York, NY
BENTLEY & CRADDOCK	(M)	Philadelphia, PA
BETTERSLEY & Co.	(M)	Malone, NY
BIESER, Wm.	(M)	Philadelphia, PA
BIGELOW & DOWSE Hardware Co.	(R)	Boston, MA
BILLINGS, Jonathon	(M)	Saco, ME
BINKLEY, John	(M)	?
BLAISDELL, H.	(M)	Springville, NY
BLAISDELL, R.	(M)	Concord, NY
BLANCHAU Co.	(M)	Homer, NY
BLODGETT Tool Co.	(M)	?
BLOOD, Isaiah	(M)	New York, NY
BLOOD & Co.	(M)	Ballston, NY
BOOTH & MILLS Co.	(M)	Philadelphia, PA
BRADY, W., & Son	(M)	Lancaster, PA
BRADY Edge Tool Works	(M)	Lancaster, PA
BRADLEY, G.W.		Weston, CT
BRECKENRIDGE Tool Co.	(M)	Toledo, OH
BRETT, W.J., & Co.	(W,J)	Portland, OR
BRIDGE TOOL Co.		St. Louis, MO
BRIDGEPORT Hardware Mfg. Corp.	(M)	Bridgeport, CT
BRINGHURST & Co.	(M)	Philadelphia, PA
BRODERICK & BASCOM Loggers Supply Co.	(W,J)	Seattle, WA (1917)



BROOKS, BREWSTER & Co.	(M)	Stoney Point, NY
BUCKLEY, E.W.	(M)	Berlin, CT
BUFFALO Axe Co.	(M)	Buffalo, NY
BURGESS-NORTON Mfg. Co.	(M)	Geneva, IL
C.A.C. AXE Co.	(M)	?
CARPENTER, E.F., & Co.	(M)	Jamestown, NY
CARTER, I.M.	(M)	Hyde Park, NY
CAYUGA, BARKER, ROSE & KIMBALL, Inc.	(W)	Elmira, NY
CHAMPION Axe Mfg. Co.	(M)	Evart, ME
CHOPPER Industries Ltd.	(M)	Easton, PA (CHOPPER-I)
CLYDE Equipment Co. (CECO)	(W,J)	Portland, OR
COHOES Axe Mfg. Co.	(M)	Cohoes, NY
COLLINS Co., The	(M)	Collinsville, CT (182?), Hartford, CT & Lewistown, ME
COLONIAL Axe & Tool Co.	(M)	(Name used by Mann Axe Mfg. Co.)
COLUMBIA EDGE TOOL Co.	(M)	Lewistown, PA
CONEYWANCO AXE Co.	(M)	(NY)
COOPER Group, The	(M)	Monroe, NC (Purchased Plumb Corp., 1981)
COUNCIL Tool Co. Inc., The	(M)	Lake Waccamaw, NC
COX Co.		?
CRIPPEN, J., & Co.	(M)	?
CUMBERLAND General Store.	(R)	?
CUTGOOD TOOL Co.	(M)	Chicago (Sears' plant)
DAMON Bros.	(M)	Oakland, ME
DAVIS, A.W., & Co.	(W,J)	Portland, OR
DeHART, C.A., & Son (Newark Edge Tool Manufactory).	(M)	Newark, NJ (1887)
DENNIS, O.H.	(M)	?
DOUGLAS Axe Mfg. Co., The	(M)	East Douglas, MA
DU.CK, Hiram.	(M)	Lancaster, PA
DUNHAM, CARRIGAN & HAYDEN Co.	(W,J)	San Francisco, CA
DUNN Edge Tool Co.	(M)	Oakland, ME
DUQUESNE Tool Co.	(M)	Pittsburg, PA
EMERSON & STEVENS Mfg. Co. Inc.	(M)	Oakland, ME (1870-1967)
EMPIRE Tool Works.	(M)	Cohoes, NY
EMPIRE EDGE Tool Works, Jones, Prop	(M.H.)	Cohoes, NY
ENDERS, Wm., Mfg. Co.	(M)	St. Louis, MO
ENNIS Mfg. Co.	(M)	Reading, PA
ENTERPRISE Axe Co.	(M)	Boston, MA
ERIE Mfg. Co., The	(M)	Cleveland, OH
ESTWING Mfg. Co.	(M)	Rockford, IL
EVANSVILLE Tool Works Inc.	(M)	Evansville, IN (1889-1936)
FALL, J.H., & Co.	(M)	Nashville, TN
FALLS CITY Axe Co.	(M)	Louisville, KY
FIRESTONE Corporation.	(R)	?
FOSTER & ROBERTSON		Portland, OR
FOREST CITY Tool Co.	(M)	Cleveland, OH
FOREST KING Corp.	(G)	Seattle, WA
FRANCIS Axe Co.	(M)	Buffalo, NY
FULTON Tool Co. (Sears)	(M,R)	Chicago, IL (1869)
GAMBLE'S Hardware	(R)	Minneapolis, MN
GENEVA Tool Co., The	(M)	Geneva, OH
GERMANTOWN Tool Works	(M)	Philadelphia, PA
GIFFORD-WOOD Co.	(M)	Hudson, NY
GOLDBLATT Company	(W,R)	Kansas City, MI
GRAHAM, J.H., & Co.	(G)	?
GREY IRON Mfg. Co.	(M)	Mt. Joy, PA
HAMMOND, C.	(M)	Philadelphia, PA
HAMMOND, G., & Son	(M)	Philadelphia, PA



HAMMOND Edge Tool Co.	(M)	Philadelphia, PA
HARDWARE Distributing Co.	(W,J)	Tacoma, WA
HARVEY, Wm., & Son	(M)	Oakland, ME
HARTFORD Tool Co.	(M)	Hartford, CT
HELLER Bros., Co.	(M)	Newark, NJ
HEWES Edge Tool Co.	(M)	Lancaster, PA
HIBBARD, SPENCER & BARTLET Co.	(M)	Chicago, IL (1855-19??)
HOFIUS Equipment Co.	(W,J)	Portland, OR
HOLMES Axe Factory	(M)	Philadelphia, PA
HONEYMAN Hardware Co.	(W,J)	Portland, OR
HORTON'S Mfg.		New York
HUBBARD & BLAKE Mfg. Co.	(M)	Waterville, ME
HUBBARD & Co.	(M)	Pittsburg, PA
HUDSON Tool Co.	(M)	New York, NY (Estd.1834)
HUNT-MOTTET Co.	(W)	Tacoma, WA
HUNT, Warren	(M)	East Douglas, MA
HURD Axe Co.	(M)	Johnsonville, NY
INDIANA Axe Co.	(M)	South Bend, IN
IRON CITY Tool Mfg. Co.	(M)	Pittsburg, PA
JAMESTOWN Mfg. Co.	(M)	Jamestown, NY
JOHNSONVILLE Axe Mfg. Co.	(M)	Johnsonville, NY
J.M. TATEM Axe & Handle Co.		Eastport, CT
KELLY, James P., Axe Co.	(M)	Alexandria, IN
KELLY Axe Co.	(M)	Alexandria, IN
KELLY Axe Mfg. Co.	(M)	Louisville, KY (188?)
KELLY, WP., Axe Mfg. Co.	(M)	Louisville, KY
KELLY Axe & Tool Works	(M)	Charleston, WV
KING, John, Axe & Tool Co.(King Axe Co.)	(M)	Oakland, ME
KING Axe Co.	(M)	Cleveland, OH (189?)
KING, R., Axes (Collins Co.)	(M)	Collinsville, CT
KLEIN-LOGAN Co.	(M)	Pittsburgh, PA
KNICKERBACKER, H.	(M)	Ballston, NY
KRAUSE, George, Hardware	(R,W)	Lebanon, PA
LAKE ERIE Mfg. Co., The	(M)	Cleveland, OH
LAKESIDE Saw & Tool Co.	(M)	Chicago, IL
LANG & JACOBS	(M)	Boston, NH
LEVERETT, JOHN	(M)	1833
LEWIS Axe Co.	(M)	Lewistown, PA
LINCOLN Axe Co.		Dubuque, IA
LIPPINCOTT & Co.	(M)	Pittsburg, PA (1860-190?)
LOUISVILLE Axe & Tool Co.	(M)	Highland Park, KY (1909)
MACK Axe Works, The	(M)	Beaver Falls, PA (purchased by Winchester, 1920)
MACK Tool Co., Inc.	(M)	E. Rochester, NY
MAHER & GROSH	(G)	Toledo, OH
MAINE Axe Co., The.	(M)	Oakland, ME
MALLORY, FB., Co.	(G)	Portland, OR
MANHATTAN Axe Co.	(M)	New York, NY
MANN Axe & Tool Co.	(M)	Lewistown, PA
MANN Edge Tool Co.	(M)	Lewistown, PA
MANN, Robert, Axe Co.	(M)	Mill Hall, PA
MANN, Thos. R., & Co.	(M)	Mill Hall, PA
MANN, Wm. Jr., & Co.	(M)	Lewistown, PA
MANN, J. Fearon	(M)	Bellfonte, PA
MANN, Wm., & Co.	(M)	Reedsville, PA
MANN, Jas. H.	(M)	Lewistown, PA
MARBLE Safety Axe Co.	(M)	Gladstone, MO
MARBLE Arms & Mfg. Co. (successors)	(M)	Gladstone, MO



MARION-CRAFTSMAN Tool Co.	(M)	Marion, IN
MARSH & Sons, Co.	(M)	Oakland, ME
MARSHALL-WELLS Hardware Co.	(W,J)	Duluth, MN (to 1915)
MARSHALL-WELLS Co.	(W,J)	Duluth, MN (after 1915)
McINTOSH-HUNTINGTON Co.	(W)	Cleveland, OH
McCLUNG, e.M., & Co.	(W)	Crossville, TN
MELLINGER, H.	(M)	Lancaster, PA
MICHIGAN Axe Co.	(M)	?
MILLER, SLOSS & SCOTT	(W)	San Francisco, CA
.		(Purchased by Pacific Hardware & Steel Co. in 1902)
MILLIGAN Hardware Co.	(W)	Boston, MA, 1860
MILTON Tool Co., The	(M)	Cleveland, OH
MONARCH Tool Co.	(M)	Philadelphia, PA
MONTGOMERY, WARD & Co., Inc.	(R)	Chicago, IL (Est. 18??)
MOORE, G.H.	(M)	Toledo, OH
MORRIS Axe & Tool Co.	(M)	Lysander, NY
MORSE Hardware Co.	(W)	Bellingham, WA (1859, ADMIRAL Axes)
NAPONACH Axe & Iron Co.	(M)	Ulster Co., NY (1833) (Succeeded by M.M. Pillsbury)
.	(M)	New York, NY
NEW ENGLAND Axe Co.	(M)	Oakland, ME
NEW ENGLAND Axé Co.		Lockhaven, PA, 1882
NEWARK Edge Tool Manufactory	(M)	Newark, NJ
NORLUND, O.A., Co.	(M)	Lewistown, PA
NORTH Bros. Mfg. Co.	(M)	Philadelphia, PA
NORTH WAYNE Tool Co.	(M)	Oakland, ME (Estd. 1879)
OHIO Tool Co.	(M)	Columbus, OH
OHIO FALLS Tool Co.	(M)	St. Louis, MO
OLDS, L., Co.	(M)	Ongonta, NY
OLD WASHOE Tool Co.	(M)	? (1868-88) (Purchased by Plumb, 1889)
OLYMPIC & Alki Axes		
OZANNE & Force (successors H.White & Sons)		Chagrin Falls, OH
PACIFIC Hardware & Steel Co.	(W,J)	San Francisco, CA
PASSAIC Tool Co.	(M)	?
PEAVEY Mfg. Co., The	(M)	Oakland & Brewer, ME
PECK, A.G., & Co.	(M)	Cohoes, NY
PECK, STOW & WILCOX Co., The.	(M)	Southington, CT (1820)
PEERLESS Axe Co.	(M)	Glassport, PA
PHILADELPHIA Tool Co.	(M)	Philadelphia, PA (Purchased by Plumb, 1889)
PILLSBURY, M.M.	(M)	New York, NY
PITTSBURG Guage & Supply Co.	(W)	Pittsburg, PA (BESTOFALL brand)
PLUMB, Fayette R., Inc.	(M)	Philadelphia, PA (1887-1981)
POWELL Tool Co.	(M)	Cleveland, OH
PROUTY, C. & Co.		Eldred, PA
PROUTY, W.O. & Co.		Ridgway, PA
PULASKI, Carter, Co.	(M)	Scranton, PA (1841-1870)
QUAKER CITY Mfg. Co.	(M)	Philadelphia, PA
READING Tool Co.	(M)	Reading, PA
RIXFORD, O.S.	(M)	East Highgate, VT (1880)
RICHMOND Tool Co.	(M)	Philadelphia, PA
RIVERSIDE Tool Co., The	(M)	New York, NY
RKB Enterprises Inc.		Elmira, NY
ROGERS Edge Tool Co., The.	(M)	?
ROMER Bros. Mfg. Co.	(M)	Dunkirk, NY
ROYS, F., & Co.	(M)	Berlin, CT
RUBINOW Edge Tool Works	(M)	Newark, NJ
SANDERS, D.T., & Sons, Co.	(M)	Greenville, ME
SAYRE, L.A., & Co.(later " & Son")	(M)	Newark, NJ



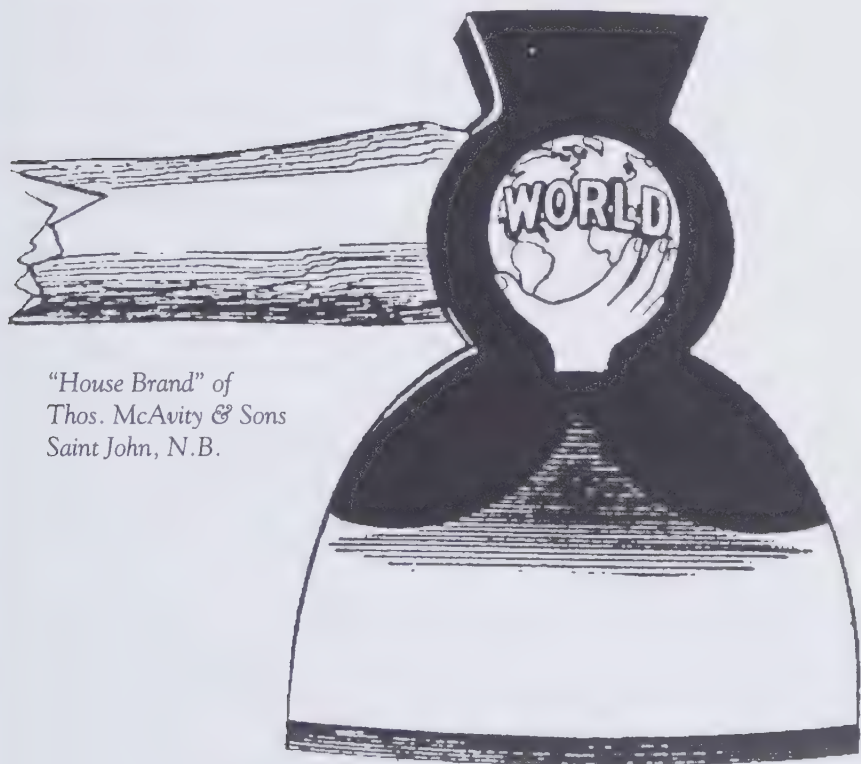
SCHWABACHER Hardware Co.	(W,J)	Seattle, WA (1859) (COLONIAL house brand)
SEARS, ROEBUCK & Co., Inc.	(M,R)	Chicago, IL (1887) (FULTON, DUNLAP, CRAFTSMAN brands)
SEATTLE Hardware Co.	(W,J)	Seattle, WA (1883)
SENER, G.	(M)	Lancaster, PA
"S.H. & Co."	(M)	St. Louis, MO
SHAPLEIGH Hardware Co.	(W,J)	St. Louis, MO (1843-?)
SILVER FALLS Tool Co.	(M)	?
SIMMONS, E.C., Hardware Co.	(W,J)	St. Louis, MO
SIMMONS, DANIEL	(M)	Cohoes, NY (Estd. 1820)
SIMONDS, WORDEN, WHITE Co.	(M)	Dayton, OH
SMITH, H.D., & Co.	(M)	?(LEADER brand)
SMYTH, John M., Merchandising	(R)	Chicago, IL (FAULTLESS brand)
SNOW & NEALLEY Co.	(M)	Bangor, ME
SPILLER Axe & Tool Co., The	(M)	Oakland, ME
STAATSBURG Ice Tool Works.	(M)	Staatsburg, NY
STAGER, S.W.	(M)	Rochester, MN
STANDARD Axe & Tool Works.		Ridgway, PA
STANDARD Products Co.	(M)	Clinton, MA
STANLEY Tool Works	(M)	New Britain, CT (4 SQUARE)
STAPLES, A.	(M)	Portland, ME
STEWART Bros. Co.	(W,J)	Portland, OR
STOHLER, J.B.	(M)	Schaeffstown, PA
STORTZ, John, & Son, Inc.	(M)	Philadelphia, PA
STOVER Mfg. Co.	(M)	Freeport, IL
STRICKER, H.H.	(M)	?
TEN EYCK, A., & Co.	(M)	Cohoes, NY
TERRILL, D.D., Co.	(M)	Bangor, ME
TITAN Mill & Mine Supply	(W,J)	Seattle, WA
TOLEDO Tool Co.	(M)	Cleveland, OH
TRUE TEMPER Corp.	(M)	Charleston, WV (1949-86)
UNDERHILL Edge Tool Co.	(M)	Nashua, NH & Boston, MA
UNION Axe Co.	(M)	Oakland, ME
UNION Tool Works.	(M)	Charleston, WV
UNITED STATES Mfg. Co.	(M)	New York, NY
VAUGHAN & BUSHNELL Mfg. Co.	(M)	Chicago, IL (Est. 1869)
WALTER, Wm. P., & Sons	(W,J)	Philadelphia, PA (Estd. 1837)
WALTERS Axe Co., Inc.	(M)	Ogdensburg, NY
WARREN Axe & Tool Co. (SAGER)	(M)	Warren, PA (1884-1955)
WARREN, J.M., & Co.	(M)	Troy, NY (1809-1965)
WARREN Tool Corp.	(M)	Warren, PA
WARREN Tool Group	(M)	Hiram, OH
WARWOOD Tool Co.	(M)	Wheeling, WV
WEED, BECKER & Co.	(M)	Cohoes, NY (1820-1882)
WESTERN Tool Co.	(M)	?
WHITE, G., Axe Co.	(M)	Honesdale, PA (Tracyville) (1870)
WHITE, L. & I.J., Mfg. Co.	(M)	Buffalo, NY (1837)
WHITE & OHLMSTEAD	(M)	Cohoes, NY
WILLIAM, The Charles, Store	(R)	New York City
WILLIAMS, A.C., Co.	(M)	Ravenna, OH
WINCHESTER Repeating Arms Mfg. Co.	(M)	New Haven, CT
WINTON Hdwe Co.		Seattle, WA (1888-1925)
WITBECK, Clark & Co.		Schenectady, NY
WITHERELL, J.H., Co.	(M)	Oakland, ME
WOOD, Wm. T., & Co.	(M)	Arlington, MA
WOODING-VERONA Tool Works	(M)	Verona, PA (1873)
YERKES & PLUMB.	(M)	Philadelphia, PA (1854-18??)



Somerset Axe & Tool Co.
Saint John, N.B.
(ca. 1947)



"House Brand" of
Wood, Alexander & James
Hamilton, Ontario



"House Brand" of
Thos. McAvity & Sons
Saint John, N.B.



(ca. 1900)

APPENDIX 3

List of Axe Makers of Canada



List of Axe Makers of Canada

A checklist for collectors of axes from approximately 1850. Includes LABELS used by jobbers and retailers whose axes were manufactured for them by Canadian or other makers. Dates quoted are either founding or earliest discovered year of operation.

Names of makers in BOLD print appear in main text.

- C.W. - Canada West (now Ontario)
- U.C. - Upper Canada (now Ontario)
- L.C. - Lower Canada (now Quebec)

ABBOT, Ameen.	Oxford, Nissouri (1851)
ACME Stamping & Tool Works, Ltd.	Hamilton, Ontario
ALBERT, Francis	Montreal (1818)
ALLAN, HILLS Edge Tool Co.	Galt, Ontario (1861)
ALLEN, TAYLOR & Co.	Waterloo-Shefford (1857)
AMSBURY, John	Oshawa (1842)
ANDERSON, Allen.	E. Frampton
ANDREWS, J.D.	Milltown, N.B.
ARMSTRONG, John (Shepherd's Axe Factory).	Toronto (1833)
ARMSTRONG, Thomas, Axe Factory.	Township Sheffield, County Addington, Ontario (1851) 10,000 axes annually.
ARMSTRONG Axe Factory	Lennox-Napanee (1850)
ASHDOWN, James H., Hardware Co. Ltd. ¹	Winnipeg, Manitoba
AYERS, J. Parley.	Peterborough (1860)
BAKER, Thomas, & Co.	Markham (1831)
B.C. MARINE Shipyards Ltd. ²	Vancouver, Re.
BEAUREGARD, A.	Mont St. Hilaire (1865)
BEDFORD Axe Manu. Co., The ⁹	Bedford, Quebec (1916)
BEEBE, Silas	Uxbridge (1870)
BEEBE, Wm. E.	York-Markham (1861) (200 axes per year)
BERTRAM, John, & Sons, Ltd.	Dundas, Ontario (1887)
BERTRAM, Peter, Axe Factory.	Dundas, Ontario (1887)
BIGGS, Robert B.	Stanley, N.B.
BILL & McKAY	Liverpool, N.S. (1838)
BLASDELL, N.S. ¹¹	By town (Ottawa) (1842)
BLASDELL, T.N. ¹²	By town (Ottawa) (1842)
BLENKHORN, James, & Sons	Canning, N.S.
BOIVAN & Co.	New Liverpool
BOULE, David.	Levis (1865)
BRADLEY Axe Factory, The	Nashwaaksis Village, N.B. (1861-1930)
BROAD, E. & J.W. ⁷	St. John, N.R. (1857)
BROAD, E. & H., & Co. ⁷	St. John, N.B. (1862-70)
BROAD, E. (Elisha), & Co. ⁷	Milltown, N.B. (1871-83)
BROAD, E., & Sons. ⁷	St. Stephen, N.B. (1883-95)
BROAD, HEWLETT & Co. ⁷	St. John, N.B. (1881-1901)
BRONSON, George A. ³	Smith's Creek, Blenheim Bronson Axe Factory Township, Ontario (1851)
BROWER, Ezra	Galt (1851)
BROWN, John.	Fredericton, N.R. (1870)
BROWN, Wm.	Ottawa (1863)
BURGESS Axe Co., The ⁴	Aylmer, Quebec
BURRELL, Ellis	Belleville, Ontario (1852)
BUSHMAN Manufacturing Co. ¹	Winnipeg, Man. (Swedish axes)
CAMERON, W.J.	Round Hill, N.S.
CAMPBELL, Neil	Perth (1871)
CAMPBELL, William ⁷	St. John, N.B. (1877-1891)
CAMPBELL Bros. ⁷	St. John, N.B. (1891-1921)
CAMPBELL & CAMPBELL ⁷	St. John, N.B. (1922-1926)



CAMPBELL & FOWLER ⁷	.St. John, N.B. (1921-22)
CANADA Axe & Harvest Tool Mfg. Co. ⁹	.Montreal, Quebec (Cote St. Paul) (Canada Axe Works: Owned by Welland Vale)
CANADA Edge Tool Co.	.Galt, Ontario
CANADA Tool Works	.Dundas (1865)
CANADA Foundries & Forgings Ltd. ¹³	.Brockville, Ontario and Montreal, Quebec
CANADIAN TIRE Co. Ltd. ¹⁴	.Across Canada (MASTERCRAFT)
CANADIAN WARREN Axe & Tool Co. Ltd.	.St. Catharines, Ontario (1912-28)
CANADIAN WARREN-PINK Ltd.	.St. Catharines, Ontario (1928-72)
CATOR, Miles.	.Newburgh, Ontario
CAVERHILL, LEARMONT & Co. ¹	.Montreal, Quebec (1855)
CHAMPION Axe Co.	.Chicoutimi, Quebec (1927)
CHAMBERS, S., Axehandles.	.Norwich, Quebec (1887)
CHAPMAN, W.C.	.Pembroke (1868)
CHARLEBOIS, Armand J.	.St. Louis, Quebec
CHINIC Hardware Co. ¹	.Quebec City (Est. 1808)
CLENDENNING, Wm., & Co. ¹	.Montreal (Est. 1838)
CLEVELAND, Levi	.Richmond, E. (1865)
COLLIN, R.S.	.Smith Falls (1852)
CONLEY, George	.Pictou, N.S. (1847)
COOPER, Wm.	.Fredricton, N.B.
CORRY, George	.Perth (1888)
DATE, H.H., Wellington Works ¹⁶	.Galt, Ontario (1844)
	.St. Catharines (1869)
	.Toronto (1875)
DATE'S Patent Steel Co.	.Toronto, Ontario (1875)
DAWSON, M.G. (Axe Handles)	.Victoria, B.C. (1875)
DEMOTT, John	.York (1857)
DESJARDIN, A.	.Rigand (1865)
DUCHERNE, Jos.	.Rigand (1865)
DUNDAS Edge Tool Works (Jeremiah Hourigan)	.Dundas, Ontario (1845-1910)
EATON, G.W. & B. (brothers)	.Nova Scotia
EATON, T., Co. of Canada Ltd. ¹	.Toronto and nationally (TECO Axes)
ENGINEERING Tool & Forgings, Ltd. ⁸	.St. Catharines, Ontario
FLECK Bros. Ltd. ¹⁷	.Vancouver, B.C.
FLEMING, John	.London (1868)
FORD, David	.Huntington
FOSTER, J.C.	.Combermere (1880)
FOSTER, Isaacs J.	.Brockville, Ontario (1857)
FOSTER, Thomas (J. & W. Foster by 1908) Dundas Axe Works	.Pembroke, Ontario (started 1850)
FOWLER, The Josiah, Co. Ltd.	.St. John, N.R. (1881)
FOWLIS & LEVY	.Peterborough, Ontario
FRANCIS, Samuel Renfrew Axe Factory.	.Renfrew, Ontario (1849-1882)
FRAZER & LEONARD.	.Vancouver, B.C. (from 1890)
GALT Edge Tool & Carriage Spring Works.	.Galt, Ontario (1844) (see WARNOCK)
GARANT Inc.	.Montmagny, Quebec (1895)
GARDINER Tool Works, W.R.	.Montreal & Brockville, (1890-1899)
GARDINER, Jas. G. (son)	.Superintendent at Smart's Brockville plant (1899-1928)
GAURON, Joseph.	.Lotbiniere, Quebec (1865)
GAUTTER, J.T.	.Joliette, Quebec
GERVIN & HURD	.Cookshire, U.C.
GIBSON'S Limited!	.Vancouver, B.C. (1900) (GORILLA Brand)
GLENDENNING, Wm., & Co. ¹	.Montreal (Estd. 1838)
GOLDIE & McCulloch	.Galt, C.W.
GRATHERN & CAVERHILL	.Montreal, Quebec (Est. 1854)
GRAVELLE, Hercule	.Hull (1865)
GREEN, W.	.Bellwood, U.C. (1890)
GRIFFITH, Richard (Water St.)	.Brockville, Ontario (1857)



HASTINGS, Thomas	York (1861) (250 axes per year)
HAINES, Simon.	Lennox-Camden (1861)
HALL, W.B.	Castlegar, B.C.
HALL, W. & George Hall & Co.	Huntington
HARTWELL Bros. Ltd	Walkerville, Ontario (GREY GORGE Axes)
HAY, Peter, Edge Tools	Galt, Ontario (1882)
HEDGE, Sam & Wm.	Montreal (1842)
HIGGINS, Joseph J., Axe Factory	Cote St. Paul, Quebec (1850)
HILLS, ALLAN Edge Tool Co. Ltd.	Galt, Ontario (1861)
HOBBS HARDWARE ¹	London, Ontario (1876)
HOURIGAN, Jeremiah (Dundas Edge Tool Works)	Dundas (1845-1910)
HOWLAND, H.S., SONS, & Co., Ltd. ¹	Toronto, Ontario
HUNTER, Robert	Albion-Caledon (1851)
JOBIN, N. (St. Gabriel Works)	Montreal, Quebec
JONES, D., & SON	Woodstock, N.S.
KING, John	New Carlow, Quebec (1887)
KLOEPFER Hardware Co. Ltd. ¹	Vancouver, B.C. (1911-1960)
KOUGH, W., ¹	Owen Sound (1860)
LABELLE, Paul Sr.	Papineauville, Quebec (1865)
LACOUR, Andrew (George Street)	Ottawa (1865)
LAMONTAGNE, G.	Levis, Quebec (1865)
LAVEN, R.	Dundas (1852)
LEAVITT, Geo., & Co.	Dundas, Ontario (1850)
LE CONFRE, Zeph.	Richmond, Quebec (1865)
LEMON, Charles, & Co.	Augusta, U.C. (1836)
LEWIS Bros. Hardware ¹	Montreal
LINDSAY, Archibald	Aylmer, Quebec (1863)
LONDON Hardware Mfg. Co. ¹	London, Ontario
LUSIGNANT, T.	Mont St. Hilaire (1865)
MACK & MACK	Victoria, B.C.
MacDONALD, D.M., & Co. Ltd.	Sunny Brae, Nova Scotia
McDOUGALL, John, & Sons.	Three Rivers, Quebec
McAVITY, Thos. ¹	St. John, N.B. (1834)
McKECHNIE, Robert	Dundas (1866)
McLENNAN, McFEELY & PRIOR Ltd. ¹⁵	Vancouver, B.C. (GORILLA) Purchased "Gibson's"
McPHERSON, John.	Goderich, U.C. (1865)
McVEIGH, Malcolm	Allumette Island
MANN Axe and Tool Co. Ltd. ⁷	St. Stephen, N.B. (1911-1943)
MARITIME Edge Tool Co. ⁷	St. Stephen, N.B. (1900-1911)
MARRIOTT, George (Kingston Axe Factory)	Kingston, Ontario (1854) (Penitentiary)
MARSHALL-WELLS Hardware Ltd. ¹	Winnipeg (Duluth, MN-head office)
MARTIN, John	Oshawa (1852)
MAYHEW, Elkanah ⁵	Renfrew, Ontario
MIDDLETON & Sons	Essex, Ontario (1865)
MILLEHER, J.P. (Millener)	Kingston, Ontario
MILLS, W.D.	Dundee
MOCOCK, T.J., & Co.	Montreal, Quebec (1880)
MONTREAL Axe & Edge Tool Factory	Montreal, Quebec (1859)
MORLAND, WATSON & Co. ¹	Montreal, Quebec (1849)
MOORE, Thomas	Cooksville, Ontario (1869)
MOORE, Samuel J.	Hamilton, Onto
MURRAY, Edward.	Hull, Quebec
NATIONAL Tool & Axe Co.	Three Rivers, Quebec
OULETTE, Moise	Hull, Quebec



PARADIS, Thos.	Kamouraska, Quebec (1865)
PARKER, Moses	Montreal, Quebec
PARK, S.H.	Danville, Quebec
PARTELANCE, Alphonse	Mount Oscar, Quebec (1865)
PERKINS, Lyman	By town (1852)
PINK, Thomas, Co. Ltd.	Pembroke, Ontario (1866-1927) (SOO line)
PLASTION, John	Ottawa, Ontario (1865)
PORTER, J.B., & Co.	New Glasgow, N.S.
PROCTOR, Amos E. & Simon Proctor	Belleville, Ontario (1851)
PROULX AXES, Edward	Ottawa (1857) (400 per day)
PRUDENT, Morin.	Levis, Quebec (1865)
QUESNELL, Theo.	Mt. Oscar, U.C. (1865)
RADOMSKI, H.R., & Co. Ltd. ⁶	Toronto, Ontario
RENFREW Axe Factory.	Renfrew, Ontario (1849-82)
RICHARDS-WILCOX Canadian Co. Ltd.	London, Ontario
RIXFORD, L.P.	Bedford, Quebec (1865?)
RIXFORD, O.S., Mfg. Co.	Montreal, Quebec
ROBERTSON, Peter ⁷	Ottawa, Ontario (1875)
ROXTON Tool & Mill Co. Ltd.	Roxton Pond, Que. and Brockville, Ontario
ST. STEPHEN Edge Tool Co.	St. Stephen, N.R (1885-95)
SANDVIK (Canada) Ltd.	Sales agent until 1930 for Sater Banko Axes (Sweden)
SCOTT, R.	St. Gabriel, Quebec (1850)
SEELYE Combination Axe & Tool Co. Ltd.	Sault Ste. Marie (1914)
SHARP, Wm.	?
SHAW, SAMUEL Axe Factory	Toronto (1851)
SHURLEY-DIETRICH-ATKINS ⁸	Galt, Ontario (1874)
SHEPARD, Har.vey, Axe Factory	North York (1827)
SIMPSON-BALKWILL & Co. Ltd. ¹	Vancouver, B.C. (1910)
SMART, The James, Mfg. Co. Ltd.	Brockville, Ontario (1854-1967)
SOMERSET, The, Axe & Tool Co. Ltd. (Murphy Bros.)	Nova Scotia (1926-46)
SOUCY, Chris.	Isle Verte, Quebec
SPILLER, Samuel	St. John, N.R (1820-67)
SPILLER Bros.	St. John, N.R (1867-89)
SPILLER. WB.	St. Tohn. N.B.
STANDARD Tool & Axe Co.	Three Rivers, Quebec (1908)
STANLEY Tools, Canada	Mfd." 4-SQUARE Axe" in Canada (1924-34) Roxton Pond, Quebec
STARR, David, & Sons	Halifax, N.S. (1860)
STILL, J.H., Mfg. Co. Ltd.	St. Thomas, Ontario (Axe handles)
SUMNER Hardware ¹	Moncton, N.R. (1855-1964)
TAYLOR, Joseph	Newburgh, Ontario (1887)
TONGUE & Co., Samuel J.	Hull, Quebec (1860)
TOY, Thomas (or TOYE)	Arnprior, Ontario (1857)
TORONTO Axe Factory	(1844)
TROTTIER, L.P.	Three Rivers, Quebec (1887)
TRUE TEMPER (Canada) Ltd. ¹⁰	St. Catharines, Ontario (from 1950)
TUTTLE, DATE & RODDEN	St. Catharines, Ontario (1869-74) (H.H. Date & W.H. Rodden)
VALE, Charles, Axe Factory	Toronto (1851)
WALTERS, Henry, Sr.	Perth County, Ontario (1851)
WALTERS, H., Axe Co.	Hull, Quebec (1885-1967)
WALTERS, John.	Hull, Quebec (1865) (Washburn's)
WARD & LAFONTAINE	Belleville, Ontario (1852)
WARNER, Isaac B.	Lanark-Drummond (1850)
WARNOCK, The James, Co. Ltd.	Galt, Ontario (1869-1910)
WASHBURN, Sexton.	Ottawa, Ontario (1858)



WASHBURN, Samuel	Ottawa, Ontario (1858)
WELLAND VALE Mfg. Co. Ltd.	St. Catharines, Ontario (1875-1965)
WELLINGTON Works	Dumfries-Waterloo, U.C. (1857)
WELTON, Wm. P., Axe Factory	Merrickville, Ontario (1860)
WHISLER, John.	Waterloo (Hills, Allan & Co.)
WHITING, A.S., Mfg. Co.	Oshawa and St. Catharines (1852)
WHITING & COWAN Works	Oshawa, Ontario (1867)
WHITING & TUTTLE.	Oshawa, Ontario (1860)
WHITMAN & BARNES Mfg. Co. Ltd.	St. Catharines, Ontario (1870)
WILKE, A.	London, Ontario (1859)
WOOD, ALEXANDER & JAMES Ltd. ¹	"WAJAX" Hamilton, Ontario (founded in 1849 as Wood Vallance & Co.)
WOOD, VALLANCE & LEGGAT Ltd. ¹	Winnipeg, Calgary, Nelson and Vancouver (later branches)
WOODS, Walter, Ltd. ¹	Hamilton, Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Edmonton (Est. 1870)
WRIM, Edward	Collfield, L.C. (1868)

Notes:

- 1 This large wholesale and retail hardware company sold many axes stamped with their own name and trade mark, although the axes were manufactured for them in Canada and elsewhere.
- 2 In 1977, they made a number of Broad Axes to meet a demand brought on by the log house trend.
- 3 Mr. Bronson had quite a "factory" going as the 1851 Canada census lists all of the employees (5) as "Axe Makers."
- 4 Mr. Jerry Burgess, Plant Manager for Mr. Walters in Hull, decided to "go out on his own" around 1940. His plant was set up in Aylmer, Quebec and he produced many of the patterns featured by his old employer.
- 5 Mr. Mayhew worked for Samuel Francis and actually operated the Renfrew factory on his own for approximately 4 years.
- 6 This company commenced manufacturing axes in 1977 and are the only company doing so in Canada today. They are also large importers and distributors of axes.
- 7 The Mann families of the United States made axes for 150 years, becoming among the most important and largest axe manufacturers in the world. In quoting the dates herein, I am indebted to the excellent research of Robin Wyllie of Dartmouth and Stephen White of Calgary, for their original studies of the edge tool makers of the Maritime provinces.
- 8 Known for hatchets.
- 9 Purchased by Welland-Vale prior to World War II.
- 10 Purchased Welland-Vale during the mid-1940's.
- 11 In 1851, Mr. Blasdell was 52. He had 6 children. His plant was steam powered. He employed 8 hands and reported 10,000 axes made annually.
- 12 The younger brother, Thomas N. was 38. He had 7 children. He employed 16 men and reported 430 dozen axes made annually.
- 13 Purchased by Jas. Smart Co. of Brockville in 1912.
- 14 Sell their own brand, MASTERCRAFT, made by O.A. Norlund, Lewistown, Maine.
- 15 McLennan & McFeely Co. (founded 1886) and E.G. Prior & Co. (started 1859) merged in 1928 to form McLennan, McFeely & Prior Ltd.
- 16 He started the Welland Vale Co. in 1869 and in 1875, the H.H. Date Patent Steel Co. in Toronto.
- 17 A jobber and wholesale house, exclusive agent in B.C. for Walters Axes from 1920 to the end.





"QS" AXES are all hand hammered out of the best American Bit Steel which gives a greater durability, also holds a finer cutting edge. Money cannot buy a better Axe. Our guarantee is against flaws in steel or softness.

Always grind towards the edge.

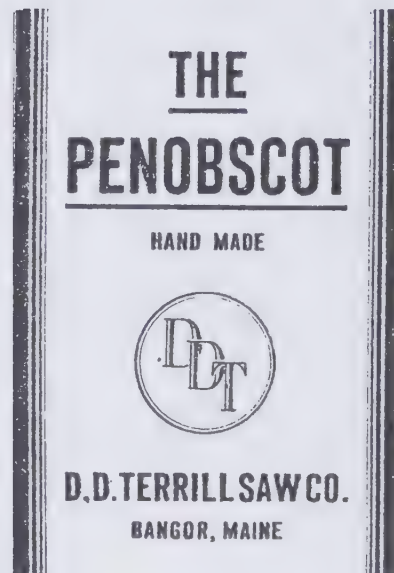


APPENDIX 4

Turn of the Century Labels of "Independent" Manufacturers & Retailers of the New England Area

<u>LABEL</u>	<u>MANUFACTURER OR RETAILER</u>
BEAVER Ax.	Made in Oakland, ME
WOOD CHOPPER'S SPECIAL	New England Axe Co., Oakland
WITHERALL Axe	Oakland, ME
ALL HAMMERED Axe.	Damon Bros., Oakland
DAMON Axe	Damon Bros., Oakland
BOY SCOUT Axe.	Maine Axe Co., Oakland
OUR BEST, All Hammered.	I.W. Arno, Errol, NH
OUR BEST, Wedge Axe.	H.H. Landers & Co., Stratton, MA
SANDY RIVER Axe	W.W. Small Co., Farmington, MA
OUR LEADER	Barnes Mercantile, Andover, MA
LEADER Hand Hammered Axe	Wheelock Bros., Boston, MA
THE O.L. HINDS Axe (Copyright)	O.L. Hinds, St. Albans, VT
THE MERRIMACK Axe, handmade.	Bartlett & Dow Co., Lowell, MA
KING OF THE WOODS	Gardyne Store Co., Montgomery Center, VT
QUALITY Hand Made Axe	Hall Hardware Co., Swanton, VT
MT. KEARSAGE Axe.	Clough & Kemp, Contoocook, VT
VARICK'S JERSEY	John B. Varick Co., Manchester, NH (Extra Quality cast steel, hand-tempered)
SILVER STREAK	C.O. Everett Saw Co., Bangor, ME
THREE DIAMOND Brand	Guaranteed by the Emery Warehouse Co. and the Rice & Miller Co., Riverside, RI
WOODSMAN	Raylind Co.
VERMONT SPECIAL	?
K & W HAND MADE	Kendall & Whitney, Portland, MA
OLD YANK (All hammered, not drop forged)	Thompson, CT
VAN BUREN'S SPECIAL	Van Buren Hardware Co., Van Buren, MA
LUMBER KING WEDGE.	A.G. Winter, Kingfield, MA
MACHIAS LAKE Axe	E.G. Webster, Ashland, MA
ALLEGASH WEDGE.	D.T. Sanders & Sons Co., Green ville, MA
KEEN EDGE.	Hotchkiss Co., Waterbury, CT
PUTNAM'S PRIDE	Putnam Hardware Co., Boulton, MA
THE OLD TOWN Axe	Old Town Hardware, Oldtown, MA
COCK OF THE WOODS Cast steel, superior axe.	?
REX, "Q.S." quality service	M. Schwartz Co., Bangor, ME
MENIKOE CHIEF	Emery-Waterhouse Co., Portland, ME
THE PENOBSCOT	D.D. Terrill Saw Co., Bangor, ME
FORESTER'S FAVORITE	J.M. Tatem Handle Co., Eastford, CT
FOREST KING Crucible Steel	Edwards & Walker, Portland, ME
HAND'S BEST	S.J. Hand, New Bedford, MA
PECCO Axe	The Peck Co., St. Johnsbury, VT
THE KENNEBEC RIVER.	W.B. Arnold & Co., Waterville, MA
CLOUGH'S Special.	Clough Handle Mill, Garland, MA
BEST Hand Made	A.D. Stone, Luzerne, NY
THE BANGOR All hammered.	D.D. Terrill Saw Co., Bangor, ME







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